

CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE KUMASI,

**GHANA RIGHT TO INFORMATION LAW (RTI ACT 2019, (ACT 989))
IMPLEMENTATION: THE ROLE OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION,
A CASE STUDY OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION COMMISSION IN ACCRA
METROPOLIS**

BY

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES; CHRISTIAN
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IN MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

SEPTEMBER 2023

DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original work and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this University or elsewhere.

Candidate signature:  Date:

Bridget Agyemang-Badu

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the thesis was supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Supervisor's Signature: Date:

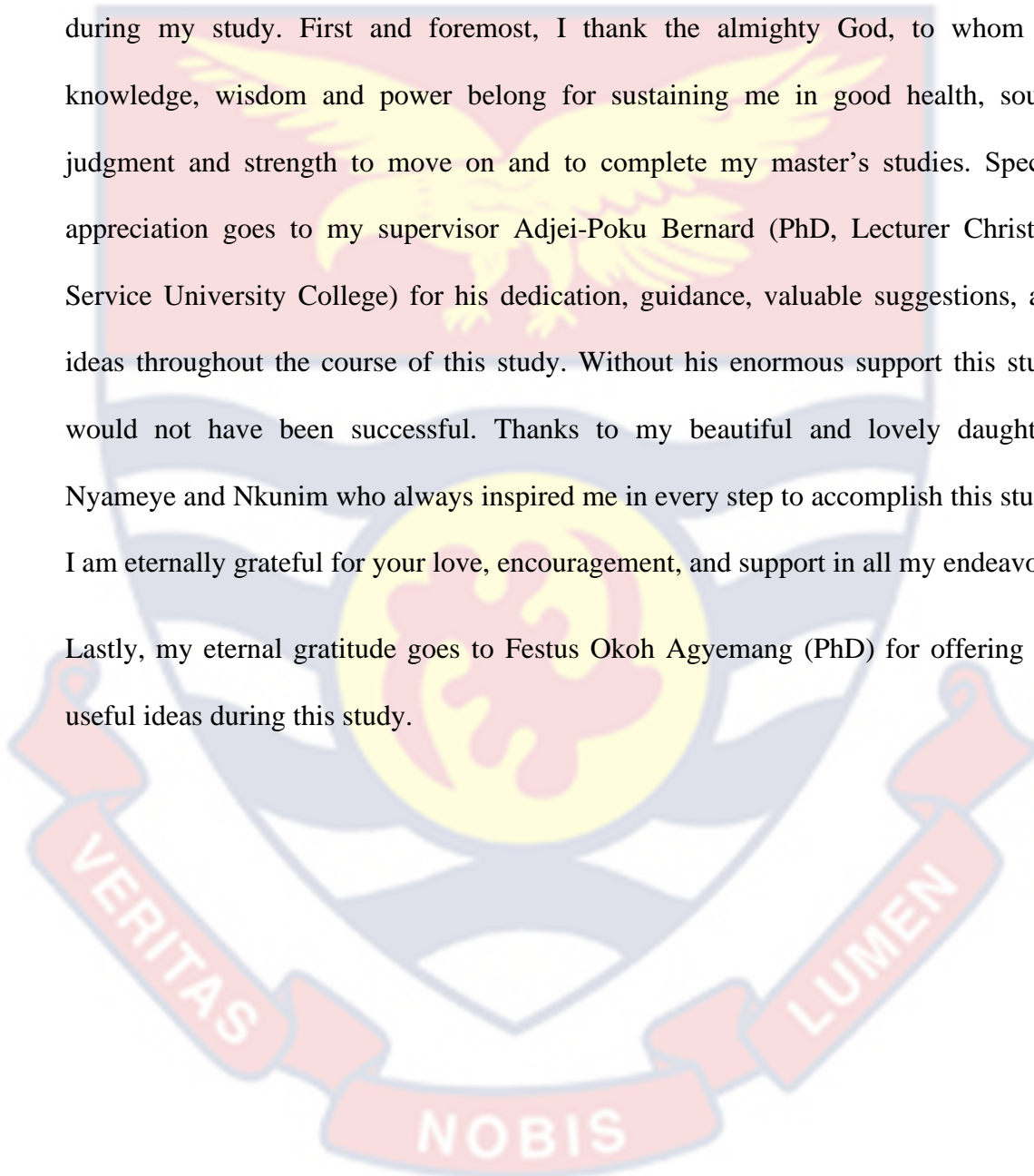
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ABSTRACT

The study examines the role of monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of Ghana's Right to Information Policy by the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis. The study adopted the descriptive research design with a quantitative approach. It used a closed-ended questionnaire with a sample size of 125 participants. The study revealed that 79.2 percent of the respondents in Accra metropolis are aware of the RTI act. A further 67.2 percent of the respondents in Accra metropolis have never read the RTI provision in Act 989. Also 83.2 of the respondents indicated the RTI Act 989 provides for the right to access public information. The study further shows that M&E in management decision making, M&E accountability towards right to information, M&E resources are economically utilized, M&E activities are carried out within schedule, Application of M&E tools in RTI implementation enhance effective implementation of monitoring and evaluation mechanism applied by the commission to implement the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis. The study revealed that there is lack of clear understanding of the procedures and process involved in requesting information from state institution or agencies, lack of qualified staff to enforce the act on the various agencies and departments of the state, inappropriate behavior on the part of institutional heads in terms of compliance to the RTI Act 989, slow release of funds from central government to the commission for effective implementation of the RTI Act, and lack of in-service training that will enhance the knowledge of the staff who are implementing the RTI Act. The Right to Information Commission should organize annual workshops to train its staff on the procedures and process involved in requesting information from public institutions.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my husband Mr. Kofi Agyarko Duah, my brother Yaw Agyemang Antwi, my mother Mercy Antwi and my children Adjoa Fremah Nyameye Agyarko Duah, Abena Pokua Nkunim Agyarko Duah and the Asuako family for being supportive to me throughout my study. I have acquired a wealth of knowledge during my time at the University.



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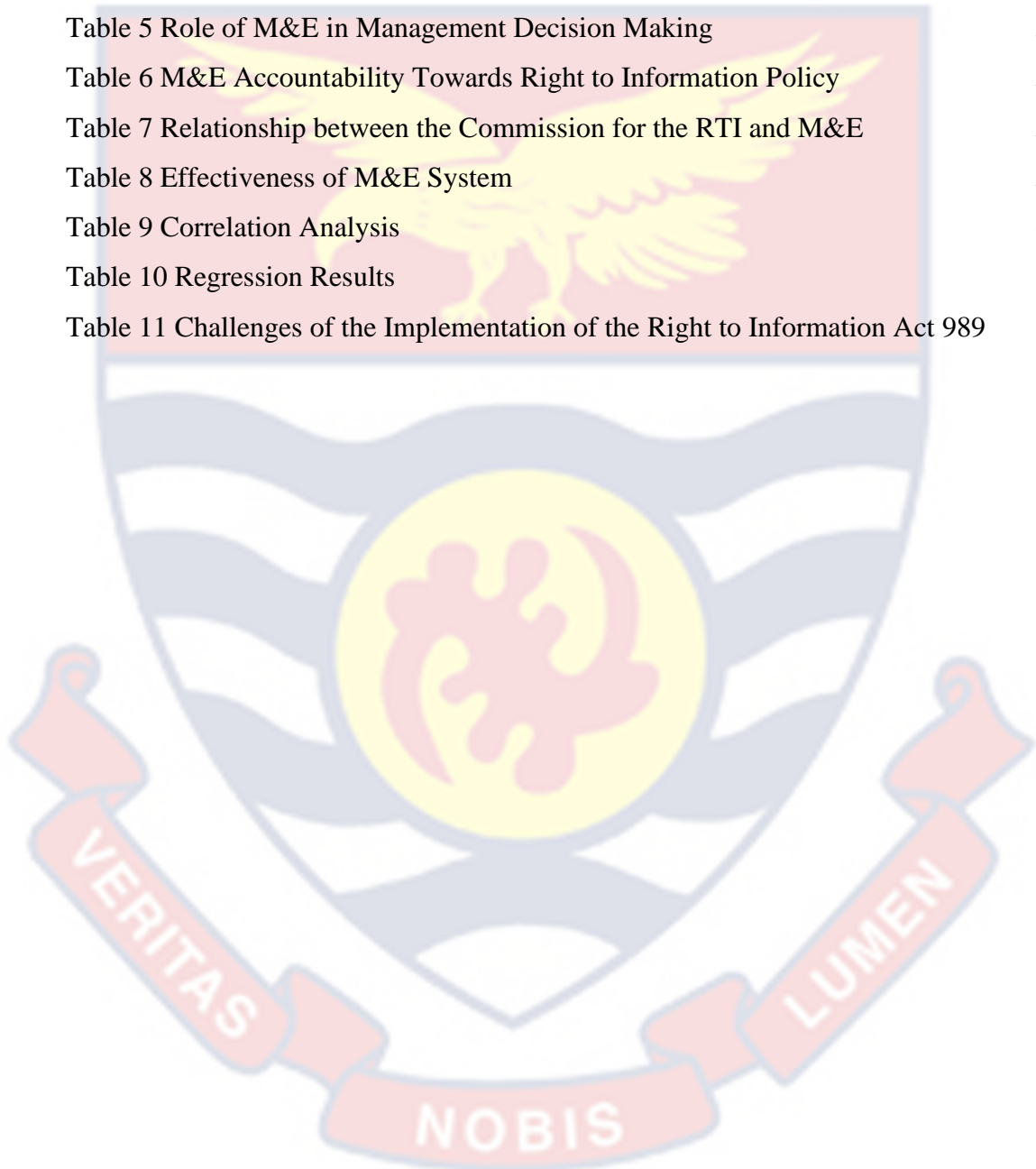
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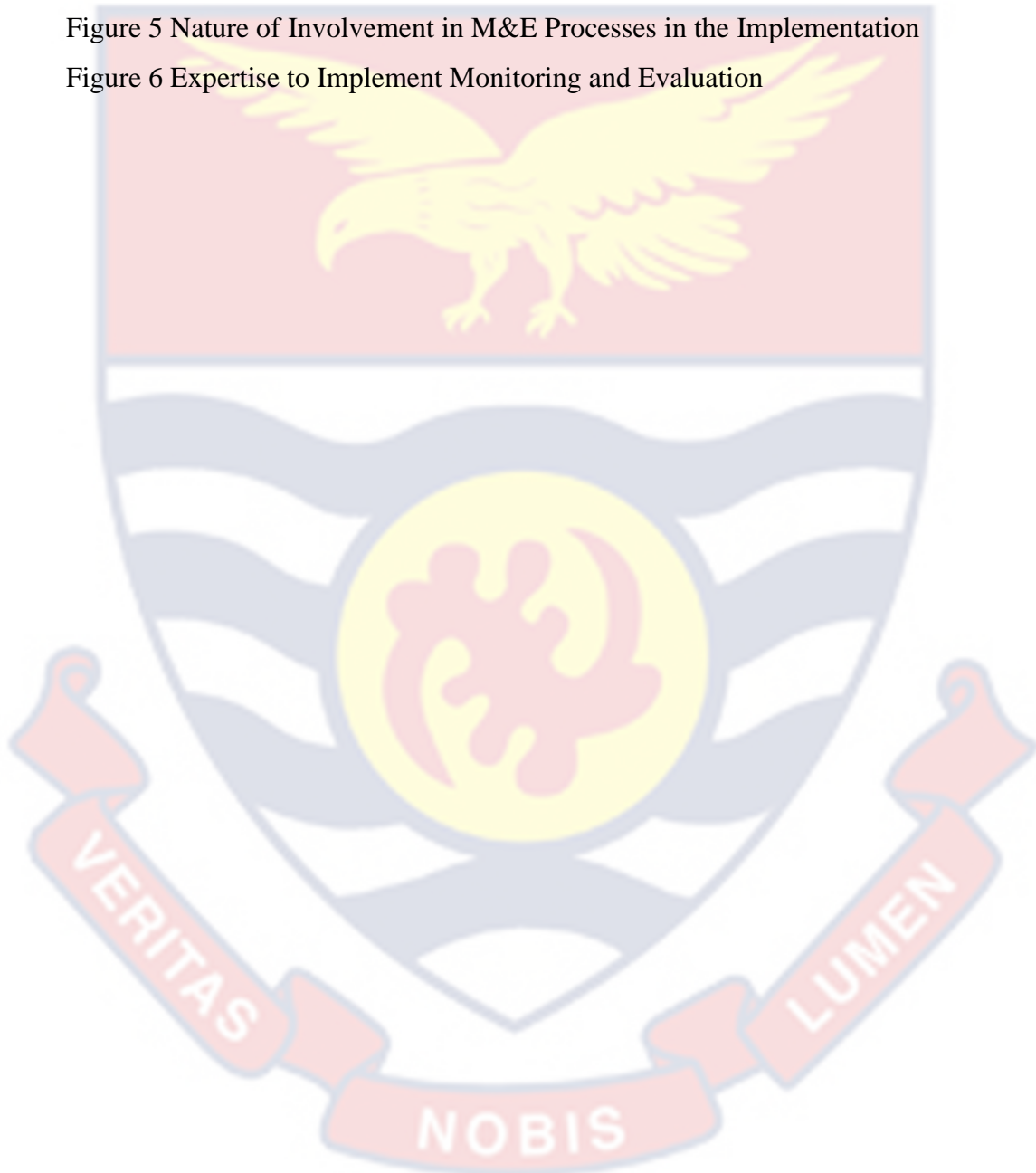
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Freedom of expression includes the right to access information (UNESCO, 2018). The right to "seek, receive, and impart ideas and information through any media and regardless of frontiers" is enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and in Resolution 59 of the UN General Assembly adopted in 1946. Freedom of Information (FOI) is defined as "the right to access information held by public bodies," as stated by UNESCO (2018). Freedom of information is also supported by other significant international documents like the American Convention on Human Rights (1969) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966). Laws protecting freedom of information are founded on the principle that all public records kept by governments and their affiliated organizations and agencies are open to the public or withheld only for valid reasons linked to security and privacy (UNESCO, 2018).

According to Afolayan (2012), freedom of information (FOI) is an integral part of a democracy's protection of the right to free speech. Freedom of information is a cornerstone of all liberties and a fundamental human right to which the United Nations is dedicated, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946. Many countries, both developed and developing, have passed Freedom of Information Act (FOI) laws in the past two decades to protect citizens' access to government records. Over ninety freedom of information laws are already in effect worldwide (Daruwala et al., 2008).

People in a democracy want to be able to learn about any topic that piques their interest, not only the way in which they are governed (Afolayan, 2012). An open

and responsible government in which every person is afforded the same rights and privileges is essential to any genuine democracy. With the exception of material that must be suppressed to safeguard certain interests, anyone in a country with a Freedom of material Act can make a request for government records regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, nationality, or place of residence (Afolayan, 2012).

Ghana guarantees its citizens the fundamental Right to Information under Article 21, clause (1f) of the 1992 Constitution. This right, essential for various freedoms, has been actively protected since 1999 (Ohemeng and Ofofu-Adarkwa, 2014). Effah and Frimpong (2023), asserted that the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) introduced the bill, revised several times, and finally signed into law in May 2019. The law enables citizens to access government and relevant private organizations' records, promoting openness and governmental accountability. The aim is to safeguard the public interest in a democratic society while respecting reasonable exemptions. This law enhances freedom of expression, ensuring transparency and responsible governance in Ghana.

According to Baroi (2013), several advocacy groups, including CDD-Ghana and the Media Coalition on RTI, consistently urged the Ghanaian government to pass the Right to Information (RTI) bill, which was eventually enacted into law on March 26th, 2019. Several sub-Saharan African countries, such as Angola, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Liberia, Malawi, and Guinea, have also implemented similar RTI legislation

To promote the effective implementation of the RTI Act, the role of monitoring and evaluation cannot be overlooked (Ohemeng and Ofofu-Adarkwa, 2014). The global demand for effective implementation of the Right to Information

Act has led to increased focus on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices worldwide. There is a growing emphasis on evidence-based policies, prompting intensified scrutiny of policies, programs, and projects. In Africa, there has been a shift towards country-owned M&E systems since the early 2000s (Effah and Frimpong, 2023). The rise of M&E over the past two decades has led to the development of a substantial body of literature and the formation of a professional community of "evaluators." This emphasis on accountability and evidence-based decision-making has driven governments to enhance their M&E efforts, promoting transparency and reflection within organizations to achieve desired outcomes. However, Ohemeng and Ofosu-Adarkwa (2014), revealed the mere existence of a legal framework does not guarantee its effective implementation. The successful execution of the RTI Act demands a robust system of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to bridge the gap between legislation and practice. This study delves into the implementation of Ghana's Right to Information Law exploring the roles monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the implementation processes. That is, it looks at the Right to Information law in Ghana, how it is being implemented, and the importance of monitoring and assessment.

Statement of the Problem

The essence of a thriving democratic society depends on unhindered access to public records (Wilhelm, 2022). Persily and Tucker (2020) affirmed that in democratic world, the fundamental objectives of free speech and press regulations revolve around safeguarding individual rights and ensuring public peace and security. Despite the limited freedom of expression and publication in many developing countries, laws guaranteeing such freedoms exist in nearly all these countries (Ohemeng and Ofosu-Adarkwa, 2014). However, these laws often face challenges in

implementation, particularly in countries like Ghana, where the Right to Information (RTI) law was enacted with the objective of facilitating easier access to information.

Abraham (2019), opined that the practical application of the RTI law in Ghana has not met these intended objectives. Government officials and institutions persistently withhold information from the public, driven by self-interest rather than a commitment to transparency. This unwillingness to share information highlights significant flaws in the legal implementation process. Darko (2020), mentioned that, after years of advocacy, the RTI Act was eventually passed in the Ghanaian parliament. However, challenges persist, including the lack of knowledge and awareness about the Act among journalists, civil societies, and the general public. Additionally, bureaucratic hurdles created by information custodians, who are accustomed to a culture of secrecy, hinder the smooth implementation of the rights granted by the Act.

To promote the right to information Law in Ghana, the roles of Monitoring and Evaluation cannot be overlooked. Effah and Frimpong (2023), revealed that Several regimes of governments have made stride to promote good governance access to information by promoting monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this law. However, there are still bottlenecks in accessing public sector information. Several studies have been conducted on the implementation of the Right to information law. Baroi (2013), investigated on the implementation of the right to information act, 2009 in Bangladesh. Effah and Frimpong (2023), also examine the Right to Information Act and Records Management Practices in Some Selected Metropolitan Assemblies in Ghana. Ohemeng and Ofosu-Adarkwa (2014), studied the topic “overcoming the digital divide in developing countries: An examination of Ghana’s strategies to promote universal access to information”. None of these

researches focused on the roles monitoring and evaluation play in ensuring easy access to information. To fill this knowledge gap, this study therefore delves into critical issues surrounding the RTI implementation in Ghana, such as educating various stakeholders about their right to request public information, addressing bureaucratic obstacles, and, most importantly, emphasizing the pivotal role of monitoring and evaluation in the process. The study also sheds light on the challenges faced by monitoring and evaluation efforts, aiming to provide valuable insights into enhancing the effective implementation of the RTI law in Ghana.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine the role of monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of Ghana's Right to Information law by the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis.

Specific of the Study

1. To examine the awareness of the people on the right to information law by the Right to Information Commission in the Accra Metropolis.
2. To determine the monitoring and evaluation mechanism applied by the commission for the right to information law implementation in the Accra Metropolis.
3. To investigate the challenges of the implementation of the right to information law by the Right to Information Commission in the Accra Metropolis.

Research Questions

1. Are people aware of the right to information law by the Right to Information Commission in the Accra Metropolis?

2. What is the monitoring and evaluation mechanism applied by the commission for the right to information law implementation in the Accra Metropolis?
3. What are the challenges of the implementation of the right to information law by the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis?

Significance of the Study

Research in the field of monitoring and evaluation has identified key factors such as training, stakeholder involvement, institutional setup, monitoring tools, planning, budget allocation, and the availability of skilled personnel as crucial elements influencing the success of projects, programs and policies worldwide (Al-Busaidi, 2018). As a result, global studies have given significant emphasis to monitoring and evaluation practices.

This study aims to enhance the existing knowledge base, scholarly research, and literature related to Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in Ghana's public sector. It focuses on the role of M&E in policy implementation, emphasizing good governance and public administration. The research also intends to benefit municipal officials, local government practitioners, and policymakers by imparting knowledge on how M&E can promote good governance. Through valuable insights gained from the study, it is anticipated that local government stakeholders will better understand the effective implementation of M&E. Furthermore, the study's findings and recommendations are expected to guide policymakers in developing evidence-based policies and strengthening institutional frameworks, thereby ensuring sustainable good governance at the local government level.

This study would also be beneficial to individuals and organizations in the sense that, it will clarify the rights of citizens in regards to access to information and

its dissemination under the RTI law. This will help the democratic process in Ghana tremendously.

Delimitation of the Study

Contextually, the study focused on right to information, 2019 (Act 989), analysing its content, and assessing the role of monitoring and evaluation in its implementation in the Accra Metropolis.

Geographically, the study was conducted in the Accra Metropolis in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. The Accra Metropolis is the most populous metropolis among the 216 metropolitan/municipal/districts in Ghana. The Accra Metropolis was selected because it is a seat of government and most of government institutions and agencies are located there.

Limitations of the Study

According to Barron (2019), a research study's limitation relates to variables that the researcher has no control over. Given the short period of time the Bill was signed into law, the slow domestication of the Act by multiple state entities, and the lack of a clear outline of its implementation processes, this study is challenging. The public administration's bureaucracy greatly influences how public servants feel about disclosing information that is in their custody. Time limitations can be significant barriers to research, as Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014) argued. Finding a satisfying balance between time spent with family, career, and research can be difficult. The study's completion could be delayed by a lack of funding and the participants' busy schedules. Based on the aforementioned anticipated shortcomings, the research is therefore designed to attain internal validity.

Operational definition of Key Terms

Right: Liberty to carry out or have access to information

Information: knowledge obtained by instruction, study, or experience. It might also refer to a group of data from which inferences can be made. At specific times and places, information influences people's thoughts, ideas, and behaviors.

Right to Information: Freedom to access information.

Access: An ability to lay hands on public information without restriction

Act: A official judgment or law passed by a legislature or other body of elected representatives

Monitoring: Stakeholders continuously gather feedback on the status of the work completed or in progress to achieve established targets or objectives through monitoring.

Evaluation: This is an unbiased yet thorough evaluation of ongoing or completed actions to see if the intended goals are being met or not and to inform future choices. It can be used for a variety of things, including policy, program, project, activity, theme or issue, organization, or institution, just like monitoring.

Organization of the Study

The chapters' and sections' contents are described in this section. The study's introduction and background, study objectives, research questions, significance and scope, and study constraints will all be included in chapter one. The right to information is covered in Chapter 2 along with the legislation put in place to protect it. Additionally, the chapter discusses relevant ideas and develops the conceptual framework connecting the independent variables and dependent variable. It will go

over the empirical data that supports the work in more detail. The methodological framework of the study will be examined in Chapter 3. The research design, various data sources and types, sample methods, data size, and processes for data collection and analysis will all be covered in this chapter. The data analysis and resulting findings are detailed in chapter four. The study's primary conclusions are presented in chapter five, along with recommendations based on the data analysis and findings.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

In this chapter, key concepts, theories and empirical studies in relation to right to information is presented. The concept of monitoring and evaluation, right to information and their relation with good governance are all presented. The chapter also presents a conceptual framework indicating the relationship among the key concepts of the study.

Meaning of Right to Information

According to the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, the right to information is the ability to access information that is protected by a law and kept by any public authority (GIPC, 2019). These rights may include the ability to take notes, extract certified copies of records or documents, inspect records, works, and take certified samples of materials, as well as the ability to obtain information on tapes, diskettes, videos, floppies, or any other electronic medium, as well as through printouts when that information is stored on a computer or other device (Sharma & Bhaduria, 2017). However, a lot of individuals mistakenly believe that the right to information merely refers to the ability to seek out information. In order to clear up this misunderstanding, the Right to Information Act (Act 989) was implemented. It provides a thorough definition that clarifies the situation, clears up the misunderstanding, and establishes that the right to information includes the rights to seek information, obtain information, and store information (GIPC, 2019).

The Nature of Right to Information

According to Sharma and Bhadauria (2017), the right to information requires that all information held by authorities be made available to all persons under the law,

without unjustly withholding it. The RTI is particularly concerned with promoting openness and accountability in the operations of public bodies and reducing or eliminating corruption as a means of guaranteeing good governance and development. Therefore, the right to knowledge is a piece of social legislation designed to benefit society as a whole. According to Sharma and Bhadauria (2017), the right to information is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. The clarity and breadth of our perspectives are both increased by access to more information. The right to information, as emphasized by Sharma and Bhadauria (2017), helps to promote transparency in government operations. Right to information advocates say that "absence of transparency in administration was one of the main grounds for all pervasive corruption and using right to information would lead towards openness, accountability, and integrity" (Nieminen, 2019). Now that we live in the digital age, the free exchange of ideas and data has a direct impact on people's quality of life and the pace of progress.

In order to achieve our goal of creating a more informed and affluent society, the RTI Act must be fully implemented (Nieminen, 2019). As a result, everyone, regardless of background, should have the same opportunities to pursue their right to know. To be clear, the term "right to information" refers only to the privilege of accessing records maintained by public agencies, such as minutes, agendas, minutes of proceedings, orders, notices, maps, data, rules, and regulations. In a larger sense, however, it includes the right to obtain data from any organization, private or public, that has lawful possession of that data (Sharma & Bhadauria, 2017). Every living person, regardless of citizenship or nationality, or legal status, is granted this privilege under this expansive definition. The global scope of the wide right also includes international organizations and states as well as domestic ones.

Pickard (2019), mentioned that the Right to Information encompasses a wide range of concepts, including: access to information held by or accessible to a public authority under any law currently in effect; information that fosters openness, transparency, and accountability in the operations of any public authority; information to interested or rival parties; the general public's right to know; and the prevention or reduction of corruption.

As a result, the information revolution will lead to greater unity, freedom, and democracy among people. The International Economic direction, policies, and order of development for both developing and developed countries can be negatively impacted if knowledge is controlled by dominant classes who are inclined to exploit it for their own parochial advantage. The current zeitgeist sees two opposing movements: the elimination of certain details and the addition of others. We boast that information technology has made knowledge accessible to everyone, yet the Ghanaian government acknowledges that certain citizens are still being kept in the dark. Human rights theory ushers in the modern era by integrating the triad of the free flow of data, ideas, and words. The conditions are being set to make openness the norm, with less secrecy, more information, freer discussions, and a reorganized bureaucracy (Nieminen, 2019).

Ghana's RTI Commission

An impartial body, to be known as the Right to Information Commission, is created by the RTI Act, 2019. Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, The Right to Information Commission's Governing Board (Led by His Lordship, Justice K.A. Ofori-Atta) was officially inaugurated on October 19, 2020, at the Jubilee House. The Commission is charged with advancing, supervising,

protecting, and enforcing individuals' legal rights to access specific types of information.

A two-day workshop was held by the Ministry for the Commission after its official launch. For these reasons, the Commission decided to hold this workshop in November 2020 to learn more about the RTI law, the agency tasked with enforcing it (the Information Services Department of the Ministry of Information), and the current state of the act's implementation.

Reasons for Enactment of Freedom of Information Laws

There have been numerous internal and external demands on governments around the world to enact RTI laws. Individuals, lawmakers, the media, environmental organizations, and civil society organizations fighting corruption have all played, and continue to play, a crucial part in the development and passage of these laws in the majority of the world's nations. Governments were forced to recognise and acknowledge themselves as users of the RTI laws as a result of external demands for transparency from international organizations in a variety of areas (Sharma & Bhadauria, 2017).

Modernization and the Information Society

The public, corporations, and civil society organizations are all demanding more information as a result of the expansion and widespread use of the internet in daily life. A group inside the government has been formed with the aim of improving information distribution as a result of the necessity to upgrade record-keeping systems and the transition to e-government. The Ministry of Information in Ghana played a key role in the RTI law's successful adoption (Auriacombe and Sithomola, 2020).

Corruption and Scandals

Numerous crises have been caused by the lack of openness in how the government operates. The Ameri Carpower Deal, the PDS Scandal, the Oil Scandal, and the OSLO Scandal are just a few examples of government transactions that were subject to allegations of open corruption. Further, the exposure of this kind of corruption and scandals had prompted the adoption of RTI regulations. Ghana has had great progress in its fight against corruption thanks to anti-corruption efforts run by organizations like AFRICANWATCH and EMANI-GHANA. Because of persistent campaigns by civil society organizations for political scandals linked to the environment and health, legislation was finally approved in long-established democracies including the UK, Japan, and Ireland (Sharma & Bhadauria, 2017).

International Pressure

Access to information has been greatly improved because to the efforts of the global community (Thakur, 2012). In order to address corruption and concerns associated to it, for example, international organizations like the Organization of American States, Council of Europe, and the Commonwealth have created model laws or recommendations. The Council of Europe specifically determined to create the first international treaty on access to information in September 2003. Along with other organizations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and others have pushed nations to pass legislation to increase transparency and combat corruption in the financial sector (Auriacombe and Sithomola, 2020).

Ghana's Historical Antecedents and The Current Status of The RTI Bill

In 1999, when Jerry John Rawlings was president of Ghana and the country's fourth republic had just begun, the RTI Bill was prepared by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) (Sefa-Nyarko et al., 2021). While John Agyekum Kufuor was president,

the 1999 Bill was revised in 2003, 2005, and 2007. After multiple evaluations under the presidency of Prof. John Evans Atta Mills, the measure was introduced to parliament for the first time on February 5th, 2010. As a result, the legislation was introduced in 2010 and was tabled in 2017. There were attempts to pass the measure prior to the inauguration of the sixth parliament in January 2017 with John Dramani Mahama as president, but these were also unsuccessful (Anyenini, 2018). Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General Joseph Dindio Kpemka introduced a revised Right to Information Act (RTI) Bill on April 26, 2018, and it was referred to the Joint Committee on Constitutional, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs and Communications. The work of the joint committee is complete, and their report, which was adopted by the full house on June 7th, 2018, was submitted to that body. The House began debating the bill on 11 July 2018, but then put it on hold to discuss the 2019 Budget. The current president, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the vice president, the speaker of parliament, and the majority leader all made promises that the Bill would be passed that year, despite the fact that parliament was about to rise and less than half of the 91-clause Bill had been considered. On Tuesday, March 26, 2019, they made good on their promise and, with the approval of both houses of parliament, the RTI became law. Can it be said that the country has made significant strides toward a more robust democracy?

RTI in Other Countries

Other nations have adopted similar legislation that controls citizens' access to information, just as Ghana was able to accomplish.

The USA

According to Abbasi (2022), the Right to Information (RTI) Act is a federal right to information law in the United States that mandates the release, upon request,

of formerly classified records and information under the jurisdiction of the United States government. In addition to defining agency documents that are subject to disclosure and the nine exemptions to the Act, Branscomb (1994) explains that the Act also defines nine exemptions to the Act. The USA RTI, enacted in 1996, is one of the longest-standing laws in the world. U.S.A.'s National Security Archive (2018) provided the following summary of the law: In 1966, the RTI was passed despite the fact that President Johnson was against it. There were legislative hearings on the necessity for a disclosure law for years prior to its implementation. In 1967, the RTI was finally implemented.

The Watergate affair and subsequent judicial rulings prompted Congress to try to change the RTI. After negotiations between the Ford administration and Congress broke down, Congress enacted major changes to the RTI. The amendments were vetoed by President Ford, but Congress acted quickly to overturn his veto (Auriacombe and Sithomola, 2020). The Government in Sunshine Act of 1976 revised FOIA Exemption 3. In 1986, Congress revised RTI once more to expand access to law enforcement and national security records and to account for the varying costs paid by requestors.

The RTI modifications were a very minor provision of the broadly popular Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 (Abbasi, 2022). The modifications were not included in the legislative reports on the Act, but the floor speeches give some insight into the intent of the legislature. With the passage of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments in 1996, the RTI was significantly revised. Separate bills in the Senate and the House were eventually resolved by their respective legislative bodies. In December 2007, the House and the Senate passed the OPEN Government Act, which included amendments to the RTI. Lack of responsiveness, excessive delay, and

legal gamesmanship by federal agencies were among the problems the new law sought to address.

India

Articles 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) and 19(1)(a) (Freedom of Speech and Expression) of India's Constitution give the legal basis for the country's Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. With certain exceptions, the Act requires government agencies to make public records available upon request (Ghuman & Sohail, 2017). States in India passed RTI laws ahead of the federal government, as explained further by Ghuman and Sohail (2017). The RTI Act, 2005 was preceded by similar legislation in the states of Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, and Tamil Nadu. These Acts, however, were deemed insufficient by Singh (2011). Rani Advani argued that the right to information was rendered useless by the India RTI's exemptions [Sec. 3(2)], which she claimed to have found in the Tamil Nadu Act. This Act [Sec. 3(2), 4(a), & 4(b)] lays forth about 25 exceptions to the right to access information. However, according to Rani Advani, the exclusion clauses are so widely worded and vague that even the most benign and innocuous material could be prohibited based on a person's personal beliefs or a simple fear of it. Information that would prejudice the conduct of official market operations, harm the Government's ability to manage the economy, or could lead to improper gain or advantage may also be withheld [Sec. 3(2)(v)]. Other examples include information that would aid in the escape of a prisoner, aid in the commission of a crime, affect prison security, or impede the investigation, apprehension, or prosecution of criminals. (Advani,).

Nigeria

On May 28, 2011, then-President Goodluck Jonathan signed the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act into law in Nigeria (Abdulkadir, 2015). The Freedom of Information Act (FOI) became widely used in Nigeria due to the efforts of several civil rights organizations. The primary goal was to codify, as a matter of law, the right to access governmental records and files. However, without a well defined framework, the law came into many obstacles and limits that made it difficult for civil society to realize the entrenchment of openness and accountability as pillars of responsible governance. Since its initial submission to Nigeria's fourth National Assembly in 1999, the Freedom of Information Bill has made very little headway in the country's legislature. After more than a decade of deliberation, the Freedom of Information Act was signed into law by the president in 2010 (Segun).

According to Udombana & Quadri (2020), the Act acknowledges a variety of valid limitations and exceptions to the public's right to know, but it makes these exceptions subject to a public interest test that may override such limitations in worthy circumstances. A government agency may deny a request for information if it determines that doing so will harm efforts to maintain international peace and security, for instance. However, where the public interest in exposing the requested information surpasses the expected loss from such revelation, the refusal of such an application would be improper. Moreover, she mentions that an application may be denied if doing so would cause "undue interference in the administration of justice," but only if the public interest criteria is met. Udombana & Quadri (2020), argues once more that matters to be easily accessed under the Act do not include the disclosure of personal and third-party information, information connected with professional privilege, or academic research materials prepared by faculty members at an

institution. Nonetheless, in cases when the public interest plainly surpasses the protection of the individual's privacy, the public has a right to access the information or materials. The provision of the requested information may also be authorized by the individual or the institution.

Good Governance and Right to Information

Traditional definitions of governance include "any process or act through which the government governs the people" (Sharma & Bhadauria, 2017) or "the process of making decisions, including the process by which the decisions taken are to be implemented" (Pickard2, 2019). Good governance is based on principles like public input, respect for the rule of law, openness, and responsibility for outcomes. It is widely acknowledged across nations that good governance is necessary for democracy (Thakur, 2012).

Good administration and openness are essential in Ghana, as in any other democratic country. The government, with the common good in mind, plays an essential role in the lives of a common person through the use of state machinery. There are many facets to what constitutes good governance, including the political, administrative, social economic, and judicial spheres. All operations to be carried out, managed, or controlled must fall within the bounds of legitimacy, transparency, and accountability, according to the systems or processes that guarantee good governance (Jagadish, 2012).

Forcibly emphasizing public goods and services, and the public interest and welfare, effective governance is predicated on the principle of sensitive, responsive, and constructive administration. The level of corruption—or what is widely believed to be corruption—in our country today is unprecedented, and it permeates every

institution, even those run by government officials (Africanwatch, 2019). The explanation for most corruption is the historical norm that secrecy was an important instrument for demonstrating loyalty to the government. Good governance requires breaking down barriers to transparency in government. Many nations have passed their own versions of the Right to Information Act as it was recognized that access to public records is crucial to national development (Sharma & Bhadauria, 2017).

As its name implies, the RTI Act facilitates communication between the government and its citizens. This Act has the ability to ensure good governance and growth in the country, and is widely regarded as a powerful weapon in the battle against misuse of power, arbitrariness, and corruption.

The principle of good governance calls for maximum transparency and minimum protection of private information. The main goal of the new right to information laws in Ghana is to change the culture of secrecy that has become ingrained in the country's opaque and bloated bureaucracy (Pickard, 2019).

According to the World Bank, effective, efficient, and accountable public sector management is a part of good governance (World Bank, 2012; Transparency International Report, 2017), as is a legal framework guaranteeing the protection of individual rights and freedoms and the administration of justice. The World Bank and the UK's Department for International Development both use the same four pillars—legitimacy, accountability, competence, and respect for law and protection of human rights—to define effective governance.

Since the government is supposed to be "of the people, by the people, and for the people," the essential idea behind the rule of Right to Information is that it should be plainly open, transparent, and responsible in all aspects and should not conceal

anything from the same people. Therefore, "good governance" refers to administration that is both effective and efficient within a democratic framework, with a high level of organizational correspondence, acting in a responsive manner, and ultimately leading to the achievement of predefined desirable societal goals (World Bank, 2012).

The World Bank's "Governance and Development" report summarizes the characteristics of effective leadership as follows: The development and implementation of public policy, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of government performance, all necessitate the free flow of information and speech; Administrative responsibility, which entails openness in policymaking, decision-making, monitoring, and assessing how well the government is doing its job; Human rights protection, social fairness, and checks on abuse of power guaranteed by an independent judiciary and a well-established legal system; Collaboration between government agencies and non-profits; Legitimacy of the political system implying limited and democratic government; Efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative system; Freedom of association and participation by various social, economic, religious, cultural, and professional groups in the process of governance.

The rule of law, efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness, transparency, accountability, consensus orientation, and citizen participation are just some of the eight pillars of good government. It is challenging to achieve effective governance in all areas. However, action is required to move towards this ideal and ensure sustained human progress. One of the catalysts that will bring about excellent governance is the RTI. The connection between the government and the people can be improved if more people are informed of and protected in their constitutional rights. People who are free to rule themselves must communicate with the representatives they have chosen. For the constitution's goals of a more just, compassionate, and equal society and a quicker

pace of political, social, and economic growth to be realized, there must be widespread and persistent engagement from civil society initiatives, voluntary organizations, self-help groups, etc. For a society to make the transition from governed to self-governed, policies must be radically reworked to create a conducive and enabling environment in which government and civil society institutions may work together productively (World Bank, 2007).

Human Rights, Democracy and Access to Information

The universal guarantee of freedom of information, which encompasses the right to seek out, acquire, and share information, contains the right to information as one of its key components. This right is outlined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is protected by international human rights agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human Rights (ICCPR). Article 19 of the ICCPR is described as follows, according to Ruth (2000):

- Everyone shall be free to express their opinions without restraint.
- Everyone has the right to express themselves freely, which includes the freedom to look for, receive, and share information and ideas of all sorts, without regard to boundaries, whether verbally, in writing, or in person, through the arts, or through any other means of his choosing.

For some time now, the UN special rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression has constantly emphasized the importance of the right to information. For instance, he argued that if individuals cannot access knowledge, freedom will be completely ineffective. This was in one of his 1995 reports to the commission on human rights. The democratic way of life is fundamentally based on access to

information. Ruth (2000) believes that it is important to strongly check the propensity to withhold information from the general public.

Monitoring and Evaluation System

Combining two complementary but distinct processes, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) (Gorgens & Kusek, 2009). As a result, it involves methodically gathering and examining data on ongoing projects, then comparing the project's impact and outcome to the outcomes expected (Hunter, 2009). An M&E system, according to Samdi (2007), is made up of a number of interconnected parts that work together to track the project's progress against its objectives. As a result, the system of communication and reflection that supports project implementation is integrated. An M&E system, according to Guijt et al. (2002), is composed of four interconnected sections: setting up the M&E system, implementing the M&E system, including the project stakeholders, and communicating the M&E outcomes. An ideal M&E system, according to Briceno (2010), "should be independent enough to be socially legitimate and externally trustworthy, but not so autonomous that it loses its significance." This means that in order for it to be responsive to the demands of the stakeholders, it should be able to impact policy making through suggestions of lessons learned and sustained through time.

Types of Monitoring and Evaluation

Based on their research interests, academics have categorized monitoring and assessment in a variety of ways. There appear to be some clear commonalities between the numerous categories used by the many authors who distinguished between monitoring and assessment. There are two basic types of monitoring and evaluation, depending on the perspective taken: monitoring and evaluation focused on implementation (IBM) and monitoring and evaluation focused on results (RBM).

Focusing on inputs, activities, and outputs, IBM encourages joint learning of stakeholders at different levels and catalyzes commitment to implementing remedial steps if necessary (Neubert, 2010). However, RBM was developed to provide insight into the gap between planned and actual project outcomes (Kusek & Rist, 2004). The idea that RBM requires systematic reporting on progress towards goals, typically in conjunction with strategic partners, was added by Parks et al. (2012). This will allow you to monitor your progress toward goals and determine if you are on pace to accomplish them (Naidoo, 2011). As a result, we can deduce that the two types of monitoring and assessment are mutually inclusive in the present day.

According to Nyonje, Ndunge, and Mulwa (2012), there are three distinct types of evaluation: the needs assessment or ex-ante evaluation (pre-evaluation), the formative evaluation (which evaluates the work in progress), and the summative evaluation (which evaluates the finished project against predetermined goals).

Theoretical Review

Although there are many theories that might be utilized to explain RTI, the focus of this study is on the libertarian and social responsibility theories. The libertarian fundamentals and the journalists' right to unfettered inquiry into the truth are accepted by the social responsibility theory. The media, on the other hand, is seen as a significant and potent factor in contemporary society.

The libertarian theory, commonly referred to as the free press theory, is based on Milton's concept of a free marketplace of ideas, where truth and deception compete. If everyone has access to information and freedom of expression, then truth will always prevail. As a check on government abuses, the press plays a crucial role in this approach.

The Social Responsibility Theory (SRT)

It was Robert Hutchins, who headed the Hutchins Commission on Press Freedom, who declared, "Freedom requires responsibility" (Marzolf, 1991). If the press is allowed to publish anything at all, it must accept responsibility for the accuracy of that information. The same holds true for information: if someone or some group has the legal right to it, they are also the ones who must take responsibility for how it is used or shared. This research looks at the Right to Know Act and argues that with tremendous power comes great accountability. It is for this reason that the Social Responsibility Theory is considered to be the most applicable framework. F. S. Siebert, T. B. Peterson, and W. Schramm first proposed this idea in 1963. The SRT has its origins in the United States in 1947, when the Hutchins Commission on Freedom of the Press was formed to re-evaluate the idea of Press Freedom. The Commission's diligent effort ultimately resulted in the formulation of the Social Responsibility Theory. While acknowledging that the press should maintain its own financial self-sufficiency, properly entertain the public, serve the economic system, safeguard the liberties of the individual, enlighten the public, and serve the political system (Christian, 2004), this theory reflects dissatisfaction with the operators and owners of media and how the media distribute information.

According to the Commission, the Social Responsibility Theory serves as a check on totalitarianism. The Commission was formed with the express purpose of ensuring the continued existence of a free press while holding media owners accountable. The theory's emphasis on the need for both the media and individual caution when exercising rights or freedoms makes it pertinent to our investigation. Before rushing to use the Right to Information Act, the media or the people of Ghana should familiarize themselves with the assumptions underlying the Social

Responsibility Theory. Anaeto, Onabanjo, and Osifeso (2008) state the following as the theory's underlying premises:

- that people, whether in the media or not, should acknowledge and fulfill some social obligations.
- These obligations can be fulfilled through the application of professional standards of objectivity, correctness, truth, balance, and informativeness.
- That in order to fulfill its obligations, both the media and individuals must self-regulate within the bounds of the law and recognized organizations.
- everything that could lead to civil unrest, bloodshed, criminality, or offense against minority groups should be avoided.
- that people or the media should reflect the diversity of society by allowing access to many points of view and enabling everyone the freedom to respond.
- The society has a right to demand high standards of performance from the media based on the premise in (1). Only the pursuit of the common good may justify intervention.
- The society, employers, and employees should all hold media professionals accountable.

The aforementioned principles make it abundantly evident that having a "right" entails obligations, and the Ghanaian people and press, who now enjoy a special position as a result of the new Right to Information Act, are required to take responsibility for performing some crucial communication tasks. Individuals and the media must prioritize public interest and national security when exercising their core human rights. The Social Responsibility Theory aims to address this.

The Libertarian Theory

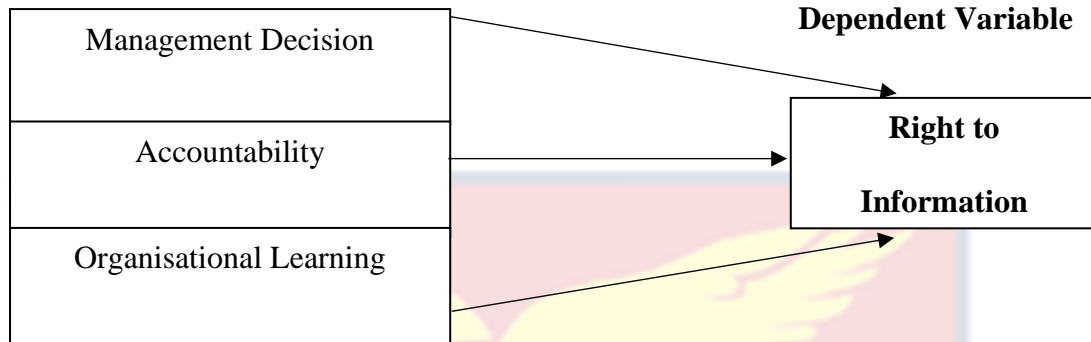
The pursuit of the truth in order to inform and educate the public is guaranteed by libertarian ideology for all people, journalists, media organizations, and the general public. According to the libertarian thesis, man is a rational being who can distinguish between truth and lie. As a result of being exposed to a press that serves as a "free marketplace" of information and ideas, he or she or they can select between a worse and better option (Anaeto, et al., 2008:56).

Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, believed that if people used reason, the majority would make wise decisions, even if individual citizens might not. He said, "If it were up to me to choose whether we should have newspapers without government or governments without newspapers, I would not hesitate to choose the latter. This should imply, however, that every individual who receives those documents is literate.

According to libertarian thought, any publication can be made, wherever it may be. The laws of sedition, slander, and libel still apply to the press, thus this does not imply that there is no law for the press. Corruption and official misconduct are reduced because to this approach, which empowers the populace to monitor the government.

Conceptual Framework

The study explores how monitoring and evaluation may support the right to information (RTI). The study's independent variable will be how M&E affects management choices, responsibility, and organizational learning, as shown in Figure 2.1 below. In order to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, competitiveness, and transparency of governance, the right to information is a dependent variable.

Independent Variable**Role of M&E****Figure 1 Conceptual Framework**

Source: Author's Own Construct, 2023

The study focuses on the interactions between the functional role of M&E and the issues surrounding the right to information that arise from the widespread belief that government institutions should adhere to a set of principles and standards to improve access to information by upholding high levels of transparency and accountability (The World Bank Report 2006). The right to information is considered an usual outcome whereas M&E is viewed in the study as a mechanism to attain the typical output. However, the research solely focused on the function of M&E of management choices, accountability, and organizational learning as key contributors of right to information, despite the fact that M&E alone may not be able to promote right to information given the presence of other influencers. The conceptual framework highlighted the importance of government institutions adhering to principles and standards to improve transparency and accountability, which aligns with the principles of the Social Responsibility Theory. Additionally, the study acknowledges that M&E alone may not be able to promote the right to information, indicating an awareness of external factors, which is in line with the Libertarian

Theory that emphasizes minimal government intervention and recognizes the influence of various factors on information dissemination.

M&E Management Decision Towards Good Governance

There is a favorable correlation between M&E of management decisions and the improvement of the right to information, despite the fact that information management in both public and commercial organizations contribute to openness and accountability. That is, measurement and evaluation of management choices could be crucial. As a tenet of effective governance, the right to information necessitates that information within institutions be managed in such a way that all citizens have access to it. Although institutions should pay attention to monitoring reports, Tuckerman (2007) argued that policymakers do not place a high value on them and are more likely to rely on other sources. Hauge (2013) concurred with this assumption in the sense that the quality of information coming out of the M&E Departments and their practicability within the present managerial procedures is not at the level that is necessary.

Citizens' access to information improves oversight of public funds, guarantees efficient use of such funds, and encourages top-notch management decisions, according to the IFAC Public Sector Committee (2001:1). The right to information is differentiated by thorough study and external inspection, creating substantial pressure to maximize government efficiency and effectiveness while reducing opportunities for corruption. However, people's right to information will be violated if there isn't thorough investigation and an external scrutiny function of available resources. Human capital is essential for overcoming obstacles and attaining unfettered access to knowledge; hence, it is imperative that the proper institutions do not waste this gain via their failures to achieve success.

M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information

AL-Busaidi (2018) discovered no statistically significant negative correlation between M&E of accountability and the right to knowledge. Information management and evaluation is crucial because it improves transparency and efficiency in data collection and analysis. Parkinson (2009) and Cook (2006) argue that a significant emphasis on accountability procedures, standards, and functions is necessary for information service institutions to effectively promote RTI. Not only should they be established, but also followed and made into actual procedures. System performance and progress toward the goal for which it was operationalized should be evaluated regularly (Haque & Khan, 2014:57). The government does not have any accountability establishing procedures, standards, or functions, according to the survey conducted by Haque and Khan (2014).

M&E Organisational Learning Towards RTI

There is a statistically significant link between the role of M&E of organizational learning and the right to information. This indicates that management and evaluation of organizational learning has an effect on the public's right to know. As noted by the Public Service Commission of Pretoria (2009), organizational learning is a rigorous process that consistently makes an effort to translate M&E into 'learning' encounters. On the other side, Ojok and Basheka (2016) discovered that learning organizes the information that is obtained through the M&E system's consistent use, which is subsequently used by the decision makers to create policies for the stakeholders. Therefore, insufficient use of the M&E system means insufficient knowledge is acquired, leading to subpar management choices.

Consequently, there is less organizational learning since fewer accountability and information contributions from M&E are made available for policymakers (The

World Bank, 2006). Although M&E is thought to encourage learning, Rotondo (2012) stated that this isn't always the case because organizations' methods of knowledge integration are likely more complex and less casual than what is advocated in standard M&E programmes.

Empirical Evidence

Agbenyo, Nyilyari, and Akanbang (2021) studied Nadowli-Kaleo and Daffiama-Bussie-Issa, two districts in the Upper West Region of Ghana, to determine the differences between traditional monitoring and evaluation and participatory monitoring and evaluation from the perspectives of stakeholders. The research report used both systematic and haphazard sampling techniques. Data was gathered through in-depth interviews with key stakeholders. The data was analyzed using a thematic and qualitative content analysis of the participants' comments. The results showed that primary stakeholders had more say in the project's execution and the utilization of monitoring information to correct for deviations when using participatory monitoring and evaluation. But it became clear that young people and women were not included in the decision-making. In addition, not all recipients were equipped to fully participate in or understand the review procedure. In addition, since resources were limited, participation had to be sporadic.

AL-Busaidi (2018) investigated the role of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in improving governmental transparency and accountability in Oman. The research analyzed the role of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in advancing the initiatives, strategies, and policies that make up good governance. The study used a web-based survey (questionnaire) and polled 300 SCP-holding workers; 118 of them participated. Data analysis and interpretation were performed using SPSS and AMOS. Through the application of three lenses, this study will examine how M&E can help

improve government transparency and efficiency. According to the results, there has not yet been a statistically significant contribution to good governance via monitoring and evaluation of accountability, management decisions, and organizational learning.

The AMREF Kenya WASH program's monitoring and evaluation system's efficacy was examined by Njama (2015). The goals of the study were to determine how much organizational leadership affects the efficiency of the M&E system, how much the availability of funds affects the efficiency of the M&E system, and how much stakeholder participation affects the efficiency of the M&E system. In order to answer the research question, this study used a descriptive survey research design. In order to gather information for the study, a questionnaire and interview guide were used. SPSS was used for all of the statistical analysis. The data was tabulated after being examined statistically for means, standard deviations, percentages, and frequencies. Funding, stakeholder buy-in, and the support of the top brass all play a role in how well an M&E system function. In addition, the research revealed that Amref does budget for M&E activities and has a distinct allocation for M&E, but the budget is inadequate and the M&E unit lacks independence. Stakeholder involvement is high in low-level activities but lacking in high-level ones. Finally, it was determined that leadership has a significant role in determining the success of an organization's M&E efforts. However, the vast majority of respondents said that the organization's top brass wasn't doing enough to promote and improve the M&E system's efficacy.

Abdulkadir (2015) examined how journalists in Katsina state used the Freedom of Information Act of 2011 and analyzed its provisions. The goals of the research are to determine if journalists in Katsina state are familiar with the Act, to evaluate the Act's provisions that provide access to public information, and to

determine if journalists in Katsina state make use of the Act. A thematic qualitative document analysis and a survey employing a questionnaire were employed to collect quantitative and qualitative data, respectively, for the study. Journalists and the Freedom of Information Act in Katsina state were the subjects of this study. After collecting data, the researchers sorted through it using document analysis on the one hand and simple percentages and other statistical methods on the other. We found that journalists in Katsina state are familiar with the Freedom of Information Act and that there are more provisions in the Act that restrict access to public information than those that expand it. Those handful who made requests to see public records were denied. According to the research, the ineffectiveness of the Act in Katsina state is due in part to the illiteracy of some media and the bureaucracy of public information management.

In his study, Afolayan (2012) analyzed Nigeria's Freedom of Information Act critically. The article exposed the Freedom of Information Act's flaws and the potential consequences for Nigeria. Limitations on what information can be requested were cited as one of the problems with Nigeria's Freedom of Information Act. This detail should have been addressed in the Bill, and it usually is. There are more provisions that limit access to information in the Freedom of Information Act in Nigeria than there are that expand it (Ogbuokiri, 2011). Ogbuokiri claims that this will allow dishonest public servants to use these provisions to advance their own narrow, unfair interests.

Like Afolayan (2017), the authors of "Right to Information Act, 2005 in India: A Decadal Experience" highlighted reasons why the act has become unnecessary a decade after it was passed. The lack of legislative measures for protection of whistleblowers, misuse of the Act, lack of awareness, improper maintenance of

records, poor compliance to public disclosure of information, lack of sustained training mechanism for employees, inconvenient fee depositing mechanism, and pendency of appeals before Information Commissions all contributed to their conclusion that the Act is gradually drifting away from its original aim.

Yawson, Armah, and Dadzie (2010) stressed the importance of developing a regulatory and institutional framework and a technical infrastructure, respectively, to put the anticipated law into effect. Their report evaluated the circumstances, prospects, and imperatives for constructing SDI, at the very least as a component of the technical infrastructure for making public sector information discoverable, retrievable, and useable. The report believes that the growth of SDI will benefit greatly from the passage of the Right to Information Bill into law. The next section suggests a three-stage process for developing the SDI, beginning with inception, continuing with evolution and construction, and concluding with integration, institutionalization, and scaling up. Their paper is ground-breaking because it contributes to a growing conversation about how to design policy, institutions, and technology to ensure that PSI (particularly public sector spatial information) is readily available to the public in Ghana in advance of the country's upcoming right to information law.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The techniques and processes that were taken into account when writing up and gathering the data are presented in this chapter. The procedures, strategies, and data sources used for the study were all described in depth. Following is a list of the sections that are involved: study area profile, research design, target population, sample size, sampling strategies, sources of data, data collection instrument, data analysis techniques, and ethical consideration.

Study Area Profile

Here, brief description is presented on the Right to Information Commission and key policies.

Right to Information Commission

The Right to Information Bill was approved by Ghana's parliament. In May 2019, the Bill received the assent of His Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana. Following that, the proposal was enacted as the Right to Information Act 2019, Act 989. With the purpose of promoting, monitoring, protecting, and upholding the right to information provided to individuals under Article 21 paragraph (f) of the 1992 Constitution of the Fourth Republic, the Right to Information Commission was established by the Act. The Right to Information Act establishes the Right to Information Commission, which the President of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, swore into office on October 19, 2020. The Right to Information Commission is to be established and run by a seven-member board.

National Policy Objectives

National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (MTDPF) contains 5 Policy Objectives that are relevant to the Commission.

- Deepen Transparency and public accountability.
- Enhance capacity for policy formulation and coordination.
- Promote the fight against corruption and economic crimes.
- Improve participation of civil society (media, traditional authorities, religious bodies) in national development
- Ensure responsive governance and citizen participation in the development dialogue.

Mission

The mission of the Commission is to achieve the goals enshrined in the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) to build an informed citizenry, to promote transparency of information held by or under the control of public institutions, check corruption and to hold governments and its institutions accountable to all.

Core Functions

The core functions of the Commission are:

- Send out written requests for the disclosure of information.
- Information may be examined, reproduced, extracted from, or kept indefinitely as part of the Commission's monitoring function. This includes information found in any premises that it enters as part of an inspection.
- Encourage, maintain, and enlighten the public about their right to knowledge within the nation.

- Conduct any study that it deems suitable or necessary for achieving the Act's objectives.
- All governmental institutions and pertinent private organisations must be held accountable for following and putting this Act's directives into practice.
- Quarterly publication of conclusions, suggestions, orders, decisions, and instructions is required.
- Take whatever additional steps the Commission deems appropriate for the efficient discharge of its duties.

Research Design

To address the study's research challenge, a descriptive research design will be used. Cooper and Schindler (2008) contend that the descriptive survey research approach allows for a more thorough examination and comprehension of a specific phenomenon as it is understood at the time of the study. When conducting a descriptive survey, predetermined objectives allow for the collection of enough data that is pertinent to the research problem (Kothari, 2004). The descriptive research design will enable the researcher to get sufficient data in a way that minimizes expense by using both qualitative and quantitative data gathering techniques. Drawing conclusions about the factors that affect an assessment and monitoring system's ability to effectively implement Ghana's RTI policy would be made easier with the help of this design. The suitability of this research design to achieve the goals of the current investigation was another factor in its selection.

This study employs both qualitative and quantitative techniques to examine the gathered data. Quantitative methods were utilized to evaluate shifts in variables like prevalence rates and other numerical data over time. Meanwhile, qualitative approaches were employed to gain profound insights from different stakeholders,

including policymakers and service providers. This qualitative approach aimed to enhance understanding concerning monitoring and evaluation processes. The study utilized three different data sources, aligning with Creswell's (2014) suggestion for qualitative researchers to employ diverse methods for data collection, ensuring triangulation and enhancing the credibility of the results. These methods included conducting interviews using prepared guides and questionnaires to gather information from participants.

Target Population

Target population refers to the group of people of interest whom a researcher intends to use to investigate a phenomenon. The target population for this study was members of the RTI commission, departments heads, the ministry of information and the general public.

Sample Size

Miller and Brewer (2003), formula for determining sample was adopted to determine the sample size for the study to avoid bias. Thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(\alpha)^2}$$

Where N = Population, α = level of significance or margin of error, n = required sample size, 1= constant. To have a fair representative sample size; the sample size is determined at a 90% confidence level (at a 0.1 significance level). For sample size of administrative staff with a population of 11, the sample size is calculated below.

$$n = \frac{11}{1+11(0.1)^2}$$

$$n = 9.9099$$

$$n = 9.9099 \approx 10$$

Using the above formula, a sample size for the remaining staff category was then calculated to sum up for the sample size as shown in Table 3.1. Also, a purposive sample was used to select 16 department heads to respond to the study questionnaire. Simple random sampling technique would also be adopted to select respondents from the general public. Hence the study used a sample size of 127 respondents.

Table 1 Sample Size determination

Staff	Population	Sample
Administration	11	10
Records	6	6
Transport	6	6
Office of the executive secretary	3	3
Estate	4	4
Enforcement, Investigation and Compliance Tribunal	21	17
Information Unit	5	5
I.T	3	3
Procurement	5	5
Human Resource	5	5
Corporate Affairs	10	9
Finance	7	7
Audit	4	4
Legal	12	11
Planning, Policy Making, Budget, Monitoring and Evaluation	10	9
General Public	10	9
Total	127	118

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Sampling Techniques

There are two main components of sample techniques, which are probability and no probability sampling techniques (Bernard, 2000). This study will make use of both components to select participants to respond to the study instrument for the primary data collection. For non-probability sampling techniques, the study employs purposive techniques. For the probability sampling technique, the study would employ simple random sampling technique to determine the selected respondents

within the study area. Purposive sampling technique was employed because the target population knows the subject matter of the study and has been in the business for several years (Guest, et al., 2006; Palinkas, Horwitz, Green, Wisdom, Duan & Hoagwood, 2015). Also, simple random sampling techniques were used in order to avoid or reduce bias in the selection of respondents and the study communities (Smith, 2013).

Sources of Data

Two significant sources of data were used in the study. These are the primary and supplementary sources of information. The main information was gathered by administering a questionnaire to respondents with participants in the Greater Accra Region. The respondents' recent information and opinions on the topic were the main types of data that were gathered. The benefit of this kind of data is that it provides the researcher with up-to-date knowledge of the phenomenon that is currently in play and may provide guidance for the field's future.

Web sites, libraries, local and internal journals, and thesis (published and unpublished works) on the topic were the secondary sources from which the literature was gathered. This type of information has the advantage of providing context and a basis for understanding the subject. Additionally, it aids in the development of a strong context for the study and demonstrates its motive. Additionally, it aids in placing the study in a theoretical context and provides guidance for the review of empirical data, which in turn aids in connecting the study's conclusions to earlier research.

Data Collection Instruments

The study utilizes primary data that were collected using semi-structure questionnaires comprising of both close and open-ended questions. The questionnaire consisted of two parts. The first part deals with the demographic information of the respondents while the second part contains questions about the independent variable (Implementation of RTI Policy) and the dependent variable (Role of M&E System).

Data Analysis Techniques

Sub-samples of the obtained data were created, and they were afterwards modified or cleaned to remove any remaining uncertainty. The cleaned data were entered into SPSS 22 and coded for later descriptive and inferential statistics data analysis. The outcomes were thereafter translated into percentages and frequencies. Percentages, means, and standard deviation were used to present descriptive statistics. The study developed a connection between the application of RTI Policy and the function of a monitoring and evaluation system using multiple linear regression equations and the estimate method of Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) (Silverman, 2010). At a 95% level of confidence, the factors' importance was assessed. The strength of the relationship between two variables was described using correlation analysis.

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where;

Y = Dependent variable

α = the model intercept

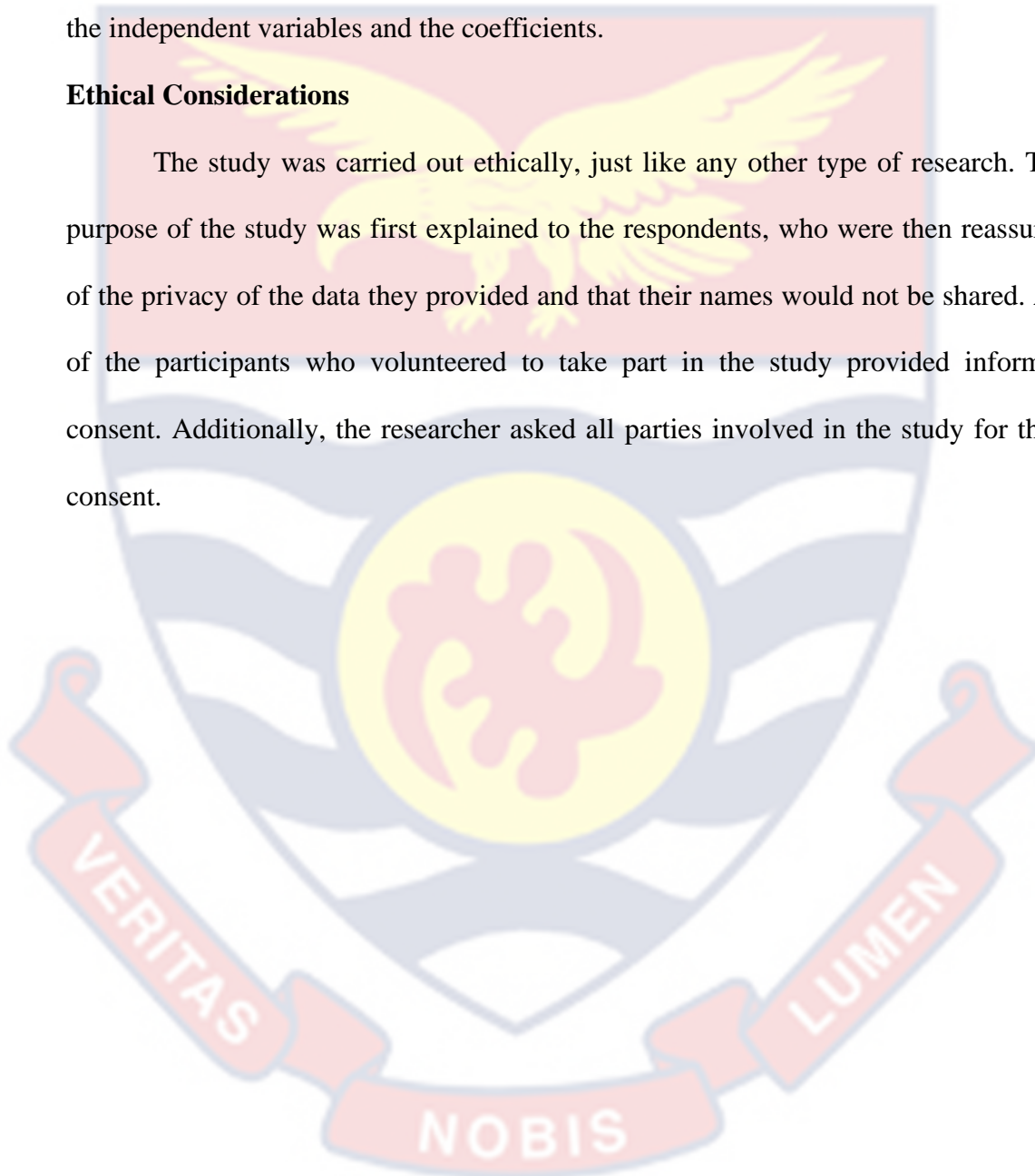
β = Coefficient of independent variables

ε = Error Term

The equation $Y=\alpha+\beta_1X_1+\beta_2X_2+\beta_3X_3+\beta_4X_4+\varepsilon$ represents a multiple linear regression model, where Y is the dependent variable, α is the intercept, β_1 , β_2 , β_3 , and β_4 are the coefficients of the independent variables X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 , respectively. ε represents the error term. This equation is used to predict Y based on the values of the independent variables and the coefficients.

Ethical Considerations

The study was carried out ethically, just like any other type of research. The purpose of the study was first explained to the respondents, who were then reassured of the privacy of the data they provided and that their names would not be shared. All of the participants who volunteered to take part in the study provided informed consent. Additionally, the researcher asked all parties involved in the study for their consent.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

The study investigates the function of monitoring and evaluation in the Right to Information Commission's implementation of Ghana's Right to Information Policy in Accra Metropolis. The chapter presents the respondents' personal data, including their sex, age, marital status, degree of education, and number of years spent working in the institution. It also includes findings regarding public awareness of the Accra Metropolis Right to Information Commission's right to information policies. It displays the findings on public awareness of the Accra Metropolis Right to Information Commission's right to information policy. Additionally, it includes the findings of the monitoring and evaluation system used by the commission to oversee the Accra Metropolitan Area Right to Information Commission's implementation of the right to information policy. It also details the difficulties encountered during the Right to Information Commission's implementation of the policy in Accra Metropolis.

Background Information of Respondents

This section of the report looked at the various characteristics of the participants who took part in the study. It further gives detailed as to the portion of the respondents with setting percentage as against the other respondents. These characteristics are gender, age, and educational level of the respondents.

Gender of the Respondent

On the issue of gender of the participants, the study analysis shows that females form majority (56.8%) of the respondents, while 43.2 percent of the respondents were males as in Figure 2.

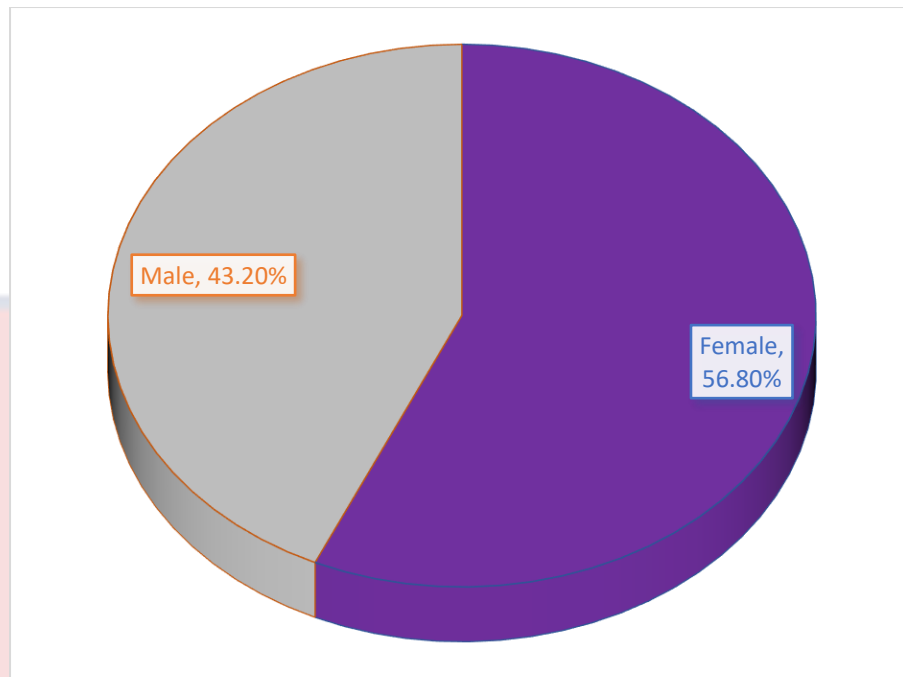


Figure 2 Gender of Respondents

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Age of the Respondents

According to the study's findings on the study's respondents' ages, 36.4% of the respondents were between the ages of 31 and 40. Additionally, it was discovered that 28.7% of the respondents were aged 41 to 50. The study also reveals that, as shown in Table 4.1, 21.2% of respondents were between the ages of 21 and 30, and 13.7% were between the ages of 51 and 60.

Table 2 Age of the Respondents

Years	Frequency	Valid percent
21-30	27	21.2
31-40	46	36.4
41-50	36	28.7
51-60	17	13.7
Total	125	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Level of Education of the Respondents

On the educational background of the study's participants. According to the analysis, 57.3% of the respondents had earned their first degree. As seen in Figure 3, it once more showed that 24.1 percent of respondents held diplomas, while 18.6 percent held master's degrees.

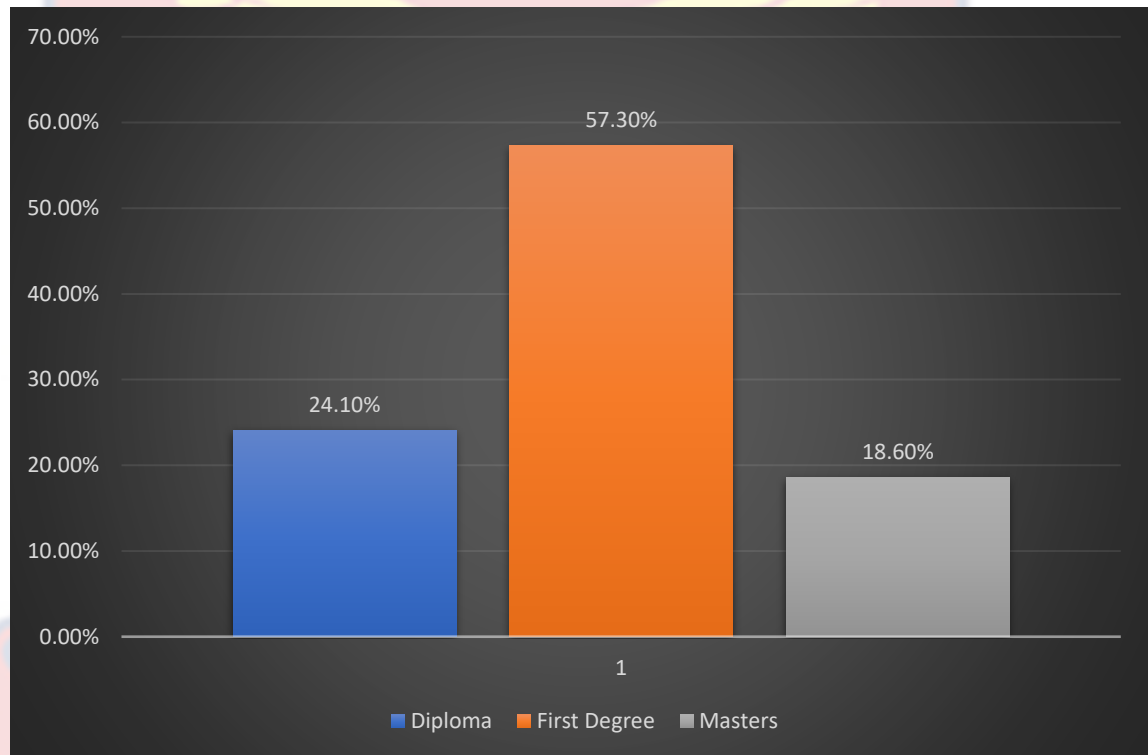


Figure 3 Level of Education

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Awareness and Knowledge of RTI policies

The study investigates public understanding and awareness of the Accra Metropolitan Area Access to Information Commission's right to information policy. In terms of knowledge of the RTI act, the study found that 79.2% of respondents in the Accra metropolis are familiar with it. Moreover half (67.2%) of the respondents in Accra's city said they had read Act 989's RTI clause, according to the survey. The study also showed that a significant portion of respondents (83.2%) believed that the

RTI statute guarantees the right to access public information. The study again showed that, as shown in Table 4.2, 74.4 percent of the respondents said they believe the RTI Act 989 is effective in the Accra metropolis. The study looks at public awareness and knowledge of the Accra Metropolitan Area's access to information policy as set forth by the Right to Information Commission. The study's findings regarding respondents' knowledge of the RTI act in the Accra metropolis show that as many as 79.2 percent of respondents are familiar with it. The study also showed that in the Accra metropolis, more than half (67.2%) of the respondents had read Act 989's RTI provision. In addition, the study showed that a sizable portion of respondents (83.2%) believed the RTI legislation offers the right to access public information. The study again showed that 74.4 percent of the respondents said they believe the RTI Act 989 operates effectively in the Accra city, as shown in Table 4.2.

Table 3 Awareness and Knowledge of RTI Policies

Question	Yes	No
Are you aware of the Right to Information Act, 989?	79.2	20.8
Have you read the provisions of the Act?	67.2	32.8
Does the RTI Act provide right to access public information?	83.2	16.8
Do you think the Act can work in Accra Metropolis of Ghana?	74.4	25.6

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Application for any public information

On the question of “have you ever applied for access to any public information”, the study revealed that 68.8 percent of the respondents had never applied for any public information since the inception of the RTI Act 989. It further revealed that 31.2 percent of the respondents indicated that they ever applied for public information as in Figure 4.

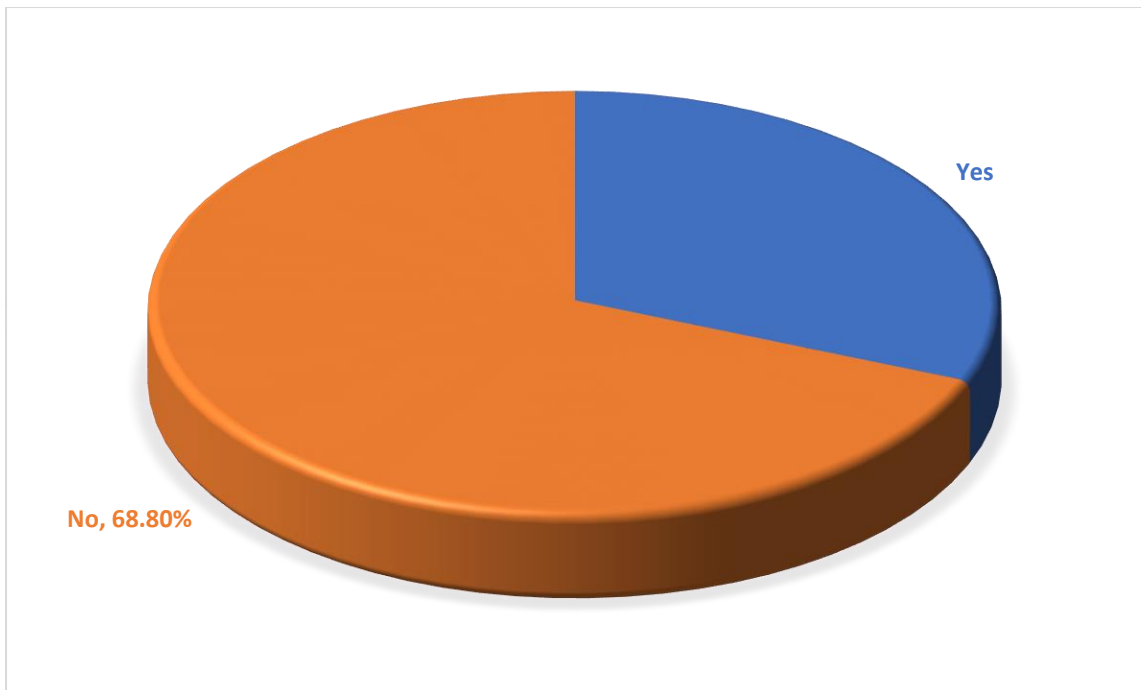


Figure 4 Application for any Public Information

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Importance of the RTI Act

The RTI Act 989's significance to the organizations and residents of the Accra metropolitan is also examined in the study. According to the study's mean score of 1.48, or roughly 2, respondents agreed that the RTI Act of 1989 makes it simpler for citizens to exercise their right to access information, as guaranteed by the 1992 Constitution. Additionally, with a mean of 2.36, or around 2, respondents concurred that RTI imposed a duty on pertinent private organizations and state institutions to furnish information upon request. Again, a mean of 2.24, or around 2, was found in the survey, indicating that participants agreed that Act 989 provides a means of informing the public about its right to request information from any public organization. The study revealed a mean of 1.49, which is approximately 2, meaning respondents agreed that government give the RTI commission the mandate to

promote, monitor, protect and enforce the right to information that is granted to a person under Article 21 (1) (f) of the constitution as in Table 4.3.

Table 4 Importance of the RTI Act

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
RTI make it easier for the people to enjoy the right to access information, as provided by the 1992 constitution	125	1	5	1.48	0.736
RTI create an obligation for public institutions and relevant private bodies to provide information when requested	125	1	5	2.36	0.508
Create a way for educating the public about the RTI Act, 2019 (Act989)	125	1	5	2.24	0.671
Government give the RTI Commission the mandate to promote, monitor, protect and enforce the right to information that is granted to a person under Article 21 (1) (f) of the constitution	125	1	5	1.49	0.815

Scale of 1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree.

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Monitoring and evaluation Arrangement in RTI Implementation

As mentioned in chapter two, Govender (2011: 22) defines governance as the quality of choices, responsibility, compliance, and community involvement that lead to local institution complying to legislation, regulations, and corporate governance aspects. This section will look at the Cooperate governance and M&E preparations in this respect.

Corporate Governance

According to the Accra Metropolitan Assembly’s Annual Report (2019/2020), corporate governance is described as a complex framework comprising processes,

practices, rules, and stakeholders shaping how the implementation process is managed. Its purpose is to enhance public-sector organizations' accountability to the public and ensure adherence to ethical standards in the implementation of programmes. Corporate governance involves various stakeholders and the objectives guiding business control. The Accra Metropolitan Assembly's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2019) and the Ministry of Information M&E guidelines underpins their corporate governance and outlines several key measures.

One crucial aspect is risk management. The stakeholder institutions monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system requires strategic leadership and a deep understanding of fundamental concepts. This system fosters commitment to allocate necessary resources, enabling it to mature and adapt. It emphasizes promoting ethical principles like evidence-based policymaking, objectivity, transparency, and stakeholder engagement. Civil society plays a vital role by advocating for evidence-based policies, considering diverse social factors, and challenging negative government trends. The M&E data is essential for government agencies and civil society organizations in their daily operations.

The Ministry of Information and the Local Governance M&E system mandates leadership to establish and maintain effective financial, risk management, and internal control systems.

Community participation is pivotal in decision-making. The 1992 Constitution of the republic of Ghana mandates the involvement of local communities in the implementation, management as well as monitoring and evaluation systems of programmes that affect them. To facilitate citizen awareness and participation, the Ministry of information and the other stakeholder institutions adopted the Ward

Committee system, aligning with the ideals of right to information and democracy outlined in the 1992 Constitution. This inclusive approach empowers communities to contribute to the implementation processes the Right to Information Law.

Nature of Involvement in M&E Processes in the Implementation

This section sought to ascertain whether participatory monitoring and evaluation is practiced in the implementation of the RTI Law. This enhances transparency and accountability because it would enable all the stakeholders in the implementation processes voice out their views and participate actively in decision making. The respondents were asked whether stakeholders such as the residents, all the stakeholder institutions were allowed to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation processes. Figure 4.1 depicts the disparities in stakeholder levels of agreement.

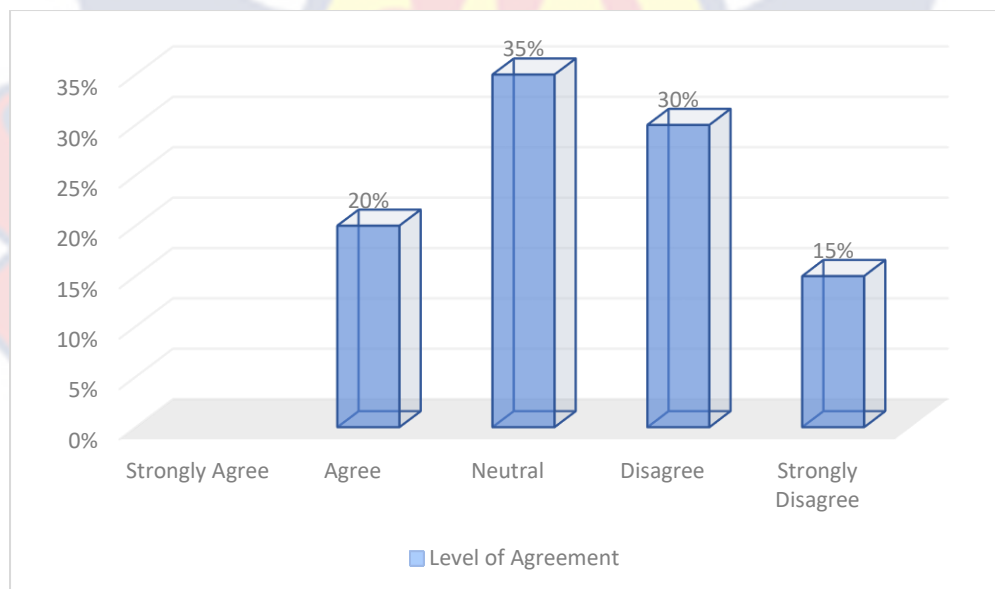


Figure 5 Nature of Involvement in M&E Processes in the Implementation

Sources: Field Survey, 2023

In Figure 5, the distribution of responses regarding stakeholder involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) processes related to the right to information law is

examined. The data reveals that none of the respondents expressed strong agreement about stakeholder participation in M&E. However, 20% agreed that all affected stakeholders are indeed involved, indicating a substantial belief in the importance of their involvement. The 35% who remained neutral might suggest a lack of clarity or ambivalence among respondents. Furthermore, 30% disagreed with stakeholder involvement in the M&E processes, indicating skepticism or dissatisfaction among this group. Notably, a significant 15% strongly disagreed, suggesting a clear opposition to the idea of stakeholders being part of the M&E. These findings highlight a diverse range of opinions among participants, however, majority of the respondents indicated low level of stakeholder engagement in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the right to information law. This result is contrary to NDPC (2013), which states that in order to effectively perform its M&E functions, there must be co-opt representatives from other sector agencies, private sector individuals, and civil society organizations whose input will be required in ensuring the participation of all stakeholders.

4.4.4 Expertise to Implement Monitoring and Evaluation

This research item's expertise is mostly concerned with the sorts of abilities required for monitoring and assessment. This study item does not relate to a particular type of skill, but rather to a set of abilities that employees must be able to use to execute monitoring and evaluation in a complete manner. As shown in Figure 4.3, the majority of respondents (45%) picked neutral. However, a substantial percentage of respondents (25%) agreed that they had acquired the skills needed to undertake monitoring and evaluation, while 20% strongly agreed. This indicates that the skills required for monitoring and evaluation were available. The findings align with the research of Kelly and Magongo (2004), who emphasized the importance of having

experts overseeing monitoring and evaluation, with distinct individuals assigned to various tasks like data collection, analysis, report writing, and sharing M&E results. Gorgens et al. (2009) also highlighted the need for all M&E personnel to possess the necessary competencies to efficiently carry out their roles within the M&E system.

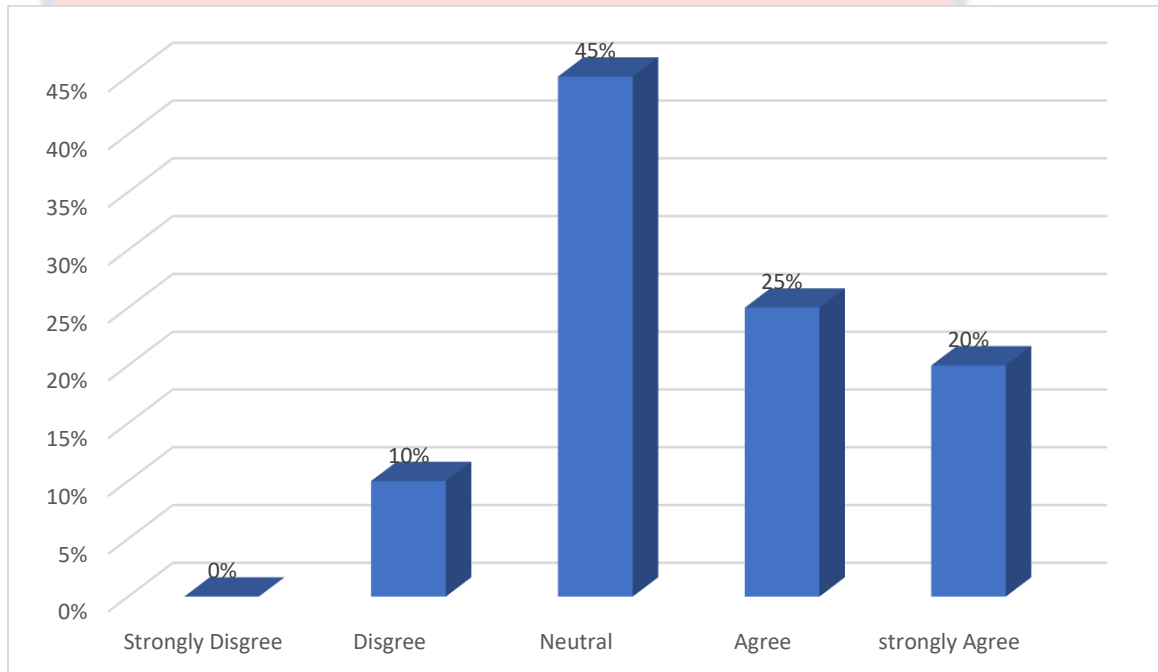


Figure 6 Expertise to Implement Monitoring and Evaluation

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Role of M&E in Management Decision making

The study looks at how monitoring and assessment are used in decision-making. According to the data analysis, the mean value, or roughly 2, was 2.36, which indicates that respondents generally concur that the use of M&E in management choices strengthens the right to information. The study also found that respondents generally believed that the institutions' information management is adequate to enable transparency and accountability, with a mean of 2.09, or almost 2. The survey again showed a mean of 2.43, or roughly 2, which indicates that respondents agreed that institutions paid heed to monitoring reports. According to the study's mean score of

2.19, or roughly 2, participants felt that policymakers hold monitoring reports in high respect and rely on them when making decisions. The study also found a mean of 2.33, or roughly 2, which indicates that respondents generally felt that the quality of information coming from the M&E departments and their viability within the current managerial procedures is not at the required level. The survey also found a mean of 1.49, or around 2, which indicates that respondents felt that human resources are important for overcoming obstacles and attaining open access to information, as shown in Table 4.4.

Table 5 Role of M&E in Management Decision Making

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
The role of M&E in management decisions enhances right to information	125	1	5	2.36	0.628
The information management in the institutions is sufficient to support transparency and accountability	125	1	5	2.09	0.717
Right to information which is a tenant of good governance	125	1	5	1.45	0.641
Institutions pay attention to monitoring reports	125	1	5	2.43	0.536
Policy makers consider monitoring reports with high regard rely on them for decision making	125	1	5	2.19	0.638
The quality of information emanating from the M&E Departments and their feasibility within the existing managerial procedures is not at the level that is required.	125	1	5	2.33	0.615
The human resources are crucial to overcoming challenges and achieving free access to information	125	1	5	1.49	0.734

Scale of 1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree.

Source: Field Survey, 2023

M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information

The study's results on M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information showed a mean of 2.24, or roughly 2, which indicates that respondents believed that M&E improve accountability and promote effectiveness and efficiency in the manner information is accessed. The study also found that respondents generally felt that information service organizations have robust accountability procedures, standards, and functions, with a mean of 2.08, or around 2. Again, a mean of 1.49, or around 2, indicated that respondents agreed that continual assessments are carried out through M&E. The data analysis also showed that the respondents agreed that the government has accountability setup methods, standards, and functions through the RTI as shown in Table 4.5, with a mean of 2.41, or roughly 2.

M&E Organizational Learning Towards RTI

The study's results on the topic of M&E Organizational Learning Towards RTI showed a mean of 2.06, or roughly 2, which indicates that respondents believed that M&E enhance accountability and increase the efficacy and efficiency of how information is accessed. They showed a mean of 1.28, or around 2, indicating that respondents felt that organizational learning is an exacting process that converts M&E into "learning" encounters as indicated in Table 4.5.

Table 6 M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information Policy

	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information					
M&E boost accountability and promote effectiveness and efficiency in the way information is accessed	125	1	5	2.24	0.607
Information service institutions have a strong accountability procedures, standards, and functions	125	1	5	2.08	0.718
Continuous assessments are being conducted	125	1	5	1.49	0.836
Government has accountability establishment procedures, standards, and functions.	125	1	5	2.41	0.562
M&E Organisational Learning Towards RTI					
Right to information is somehow influenced by M&E of organisational learning	125	1	5	2.06	0.820
Organisational learning is a rigorous process that translate M&E into 'learning' encounters	125	1	5	1.28	0.538
Less applications of M&E system results in poor knowledge gathered and poor management decisions	125	1	5	2.41	0.713
Less contributions of M&E of accountability and information are made available for policymaking towards enhancing people's access to information	125	1	5	2.17	0.537

Scale of 1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree.

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Relationship between the Commission for the RTI and M&E

The study investigates the partnership between M&E and the Commission for the RTI. According to data analysis, the mean was 2.34, or roughly 2, and respondents agreed that the commission incorporates M&E findings in its decision-making.

Additionally, it showed that respondents agreed that the commission should always and plainly inform staff and other agencies of M&E results, with a mean of 2.07, or around 2. Again, with a mean of 2.42, or around 2, respondents agreed that the commission actively participates in the design of the M&E systems.

The study also found that respondents agreed that the commission makes sure that enough resources are allotted to M&E for successful RTI implementation in the Accra metropolis, with a mean of 2.26, or almost 2. Additionally, the commission guarantees that personnel receive regular M&E training, according to respondents, who agreed with this statement with a mean of 4.31, or around 4. A mean of 2.12, or around 2, indicates that respondents agreed that the government's policy supports M&E of the RTI Act to deal with institutions and organizations who refused to give public information when requested by the public. According to the study's mean, which is around 2, respondents concur that the commission acknowledges and supports the role of M&E in the implementation of RTI. The study also found a mean of 2.17, or roughly 2, which indicates that respondents concur that the commission acknowledges and supports the role of M&E in the efficient distribution of information under the RTI Act in the Accra metropolitan area. The survey also found a mean of 2.22, or around 2, which indicates that respondents believed that the commission provides supporting oversight and assistance, as shown in Table 4.6.

Table 7 Relationship between the Commission for the RTI and M&E

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
The commission uses M&E findings in decision making	125	1	5	2.34	0.638
The commission always and clearly communicate M&E results	125	1	5	2.07	0.835
The commission takes active part in designing the M&E systems	125	1	5	2.42	0.509
The commission ensures sufficient resources are allocated to M&E	125	1	5	2.26	0.735
The commission ensures that staff are trained on M&E regularly	125	1	5	2.31	1.360
Government's policy supports M&E	125	1	5	2.12	0.839
The commission recognizes and supports the role of M&E	125	1	5	2.33	0.634
The commission takes part in some of the M&E activities	125	1	5	2.17	0.601
There is supportive supervision and guidance from the commission	125	1	5	2.22	0.731

Scale of 1 – Strongly agree, 3 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree.

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Effectiveness of M&E System

The article goes into more detail on how well the RTI Act is being implemented in the metropolis of Accra. The research yielded a mean of 1.47, or around 2, signifying that respondents concurred that the M&E results and conclusions are pertinent and helpful for making decisions regarding the implementation of the RTI Act in the Accra metropolis. The study once more showed a mean of 2.33, or roughly 2, indicating that respondents concurred that M&E works are completed on

schedule throughout the implementation of the RTI Act. Respondents believed that the cost of M&E activities is always under budget, as indicated by the analyses' mean value of 2.44, or roughly 2. A mean of 2.31, or around 2, was found through further analysis, indicating that respondents believed M&E results and comments were timely for prompt decision-making. The study's mean value, 2.43, or around 2, indicated that respondents agreed that M&E resources are effectively used throughout the implementation of the RTI Act in the Accra metropolitan. The results of the study again showed a mean of 3.42, or roughly 3, indicating that respondents were unsure if the M&E goals were mostly met during the RTI implementation phase. The survey also found a mean of 2.33, or around 2, which indicates that respondents agreed that the M&E roles and responsibilities are clearly specified in order to successfully administer the RTI Act in the Accra metropolis as shown in Table 4.7.

Table 8 Effectiveness of M&E System

Effectiveness of M&E System	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Results and findings from M&E are relevant and useful	125	1	5	1.47	0.637
The M&E activities are carried out within schedule	125	1	5	2.33	0.746
The cost of M&E activities is always within the budget	125	1	5	2.44	0.507
Results and feedback from M&E are timely	125	1	5	2.31	0.529
M&E resources are economically utilized	125	1	5	2.43	0.726
The M&E objectives are largely achieved	125	1	5	3.42	0.604
The M&E responsibilities and duties are clearly defined	125	1	5	2.33	0.736

Scale of 1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree.

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis was conducted to determine the monitoring and evaluation mechanism applied by the commission for the right to information policy implementation by the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis. The independent variables include; M&E mechanism applied in RTI Implementation (M&MR), M&E in Management Decision Making (M&EM), M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information (M&EAT), M&E responsibilities and duties are clearly defined (M&ERD), M&E resources are economically utilized (M&ERE), M&E activities are carried out within schedule (M&EAC), Application of M&E Tools in RTI Implementation (AM&ET), Available Resource for M&E in RTI Implementation (ARM&E). From Table 4.8, the results showed that M&E mechanism applied in RTI Implementation (M&MR) was found to have a positive correlation with; M&E in Management Decision Making (M&EM) ($r = 0.752$, $p = 0.01$), M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information (M&EAT) ($r = 0.825$, $p = 0.05$), M&E responsibilities and duties are clearly defined (M&ERD) ($r = 0.591$, $p = 0.01$), M&E resources are economically utilized (M&ERE) ($r = 0.690$, $p = 0.01$), M&E activities are carried out within schedule (M&EAC) ($r = 0.809$, $p = 0.01$), Application of M&E Tools in RTI Implementation (AM&ET) ($r = 0.629$, $p = 0.05$), Available Resource for M&E in RTI Implementation (ARM&E) ($r = 0.756$, $p = 0.01$).

Table 9 Correlation Analysis

	M&MR	M&EM	M&EAT	M&ERD	M&ERE	M&EAC	AM&ET	ARM&E
M&MR	1							
M&EM	.752**	1						
M&EAT	.825*	.804*	1					
M&ERD	.591**	.741**	.627**	1				
M&ERE	.690**	.797**	.765**	.834**	1			
M&EAC	.809**	.884*	.841*	.815**	.796*	1		
AM&ET	.629*	.858**	.780*	.763**	.843**	.551**	1	
ARM&E	.756**	.646*	.855**	.807**	.519**	.744**	.833**	1

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Regression Analysis

In this part, the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis's implementation of the right to information policy was examined in relation to the regression findings of the monitoring and evaluation system used by the commission. The following factors were taken into account: M&E Mechanism Used in RTI Implementation (M&MR), M&E in Management Decision Making (M&EM), M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information (M&EAT), M&E Responsibilities and Duties are Clearly Defined (M&ERD), M&E Resources are Economically Utilized (M&ERE), M&E Activities are Performed Within Schedule (M&EAC), Application of M&E Tools in R.

The coefficients of the independent variables (M&EM, M&EAT, M&ERD, M&ERE, M&EAC, AM&ET) are provided along with their respective p-values. The coefficients for M&EM, M&EAT, M&ERE, M&EAC, and AM&ET are positive and statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), suggesting a positive relationship between these variables and the outcome. This means changes in these variables are associated with changes in the M&E mechanism used in RTI Implementation (M&MR).

R-squared (0.422) represents the proportion of the variance in the dependent variable (M&MR) that is predictable from the independent variables. Adjusted R-squared (0.390) adjusts the R-squared value based on the number of predictors in the model. A higher R-squared value indicates a better fit of the model to the data, suggesting that approximately 42.2% of the variance in M&MR is explained by the independent variables.

The F-statistic tests the overall significance of the regression model. In this case, the F-statistic is 13.330 with a p-value of 0.000, indicating that the overall regression model is statistically significant. This means that at least one of the independent variables has a significant effect on the M&MR.

The positive coefficients of M&EM, M&EAT, M&ERE, M&EAC, and AM&ET suggest that an increase in these variables is associated with an increase in the M&MR. This is valuable information for understanding which aspects of monitoring and evaluation are most influential in the Right to Information Commission's implementation of the right to information policy in Accra Metropolis. The regression analysis shows factors influencing the implementation of the right to information policy by the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis.

$$M\&MR = 0.419 + 0.603X_1 + 0.104X_2 - 0.276X_3 + 0.223X_4 + 0.281X_5 + 0.114X_6 - 0.043X_7 + e \dots\dots\dots 1$$

Table 10 Regression Results

Variables	Coefficient	t-Statistic	Prob.
Constant	0.419	0.848	0.398
M&EM	0.603	7.684	0.000
M&EAT	0.104	1.316	0.004
M&ERD	-0.276	-2.649	0.001
M&ERE	0.223	2.863	0.003
M&EAC	0.281	4.059	0.000
AM&ET	0.114	1.310	0.000
ARM&E	-0.043	-0.463	0.644
R	0.649		
R-squared	0.422		
Adjusted R-squared	0.390		
S.E. of Estimate	0.896		
F-statistic	13.330		
Prob (F-statistic)	0.000		

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Challenges of the Implementation of the Right to Information Act 989

They looked into the difficulties encountered during the Right to Information Commission's implementation of the Act in Accra Metropolis. The data analysis produced a mean of 2.43, or around 2, which indicates that respondents concur that there is a lack of clarity on the steps and processes involved in requesting information from governmental institutions or agencies.

According to the study's mean score of 2.18, or roughly 2, respondents agreed that there is a dearth of qualified people to implement the law throughout the state's numerous agencies and departments. Further research yielded a mean of 2.03, or almost 2, which indicates that respondents agreed that institutional leaders' compliance with the RTI Act 989 has been improper. Additionally, with a mean of

4.12, or around 4, respondents did not think that the officials responsible for carrying out the RTI Act are corrupt.

The study also found that respondents generally believed that central government funds are released slowly to the commission for the proper execution of the RTI Act, with a mean of 2.27, or almost 2. The study's mean, or roughly 2, indicated that respondents agreed that there is a shortage of in-service training that will improve the understanding of the staff members executing the RTI Act. This figure was shown to be 2.06 in the survey. Further examination of the results showed a mean of 2.11, or around 2, which indicated that respondents agreed that the general public is not aware of the existence of the RTI Act. Again, with a mean of 2.39, or around 2, respondents agreed that there is pressure from the public to obtain information quickly without following the proper procedures. A mean of 1.47, or roughly 2, was found in the survey, indicating that respondents felt that political influence affected how publicly available information was disseminated, as shown in Table 4.10.

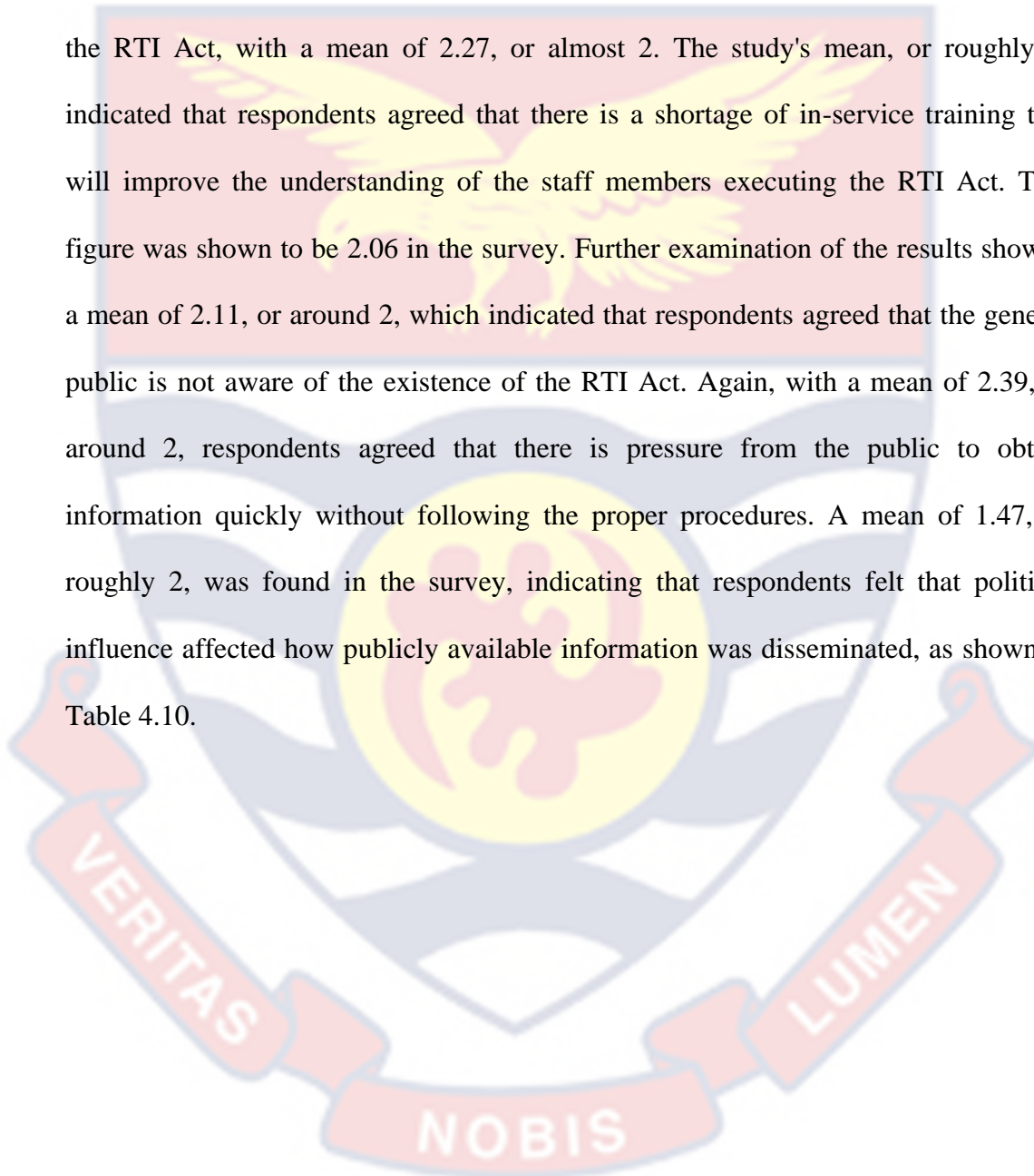


Table 11 Challenges of the Implementation of the Right to Information Act 989

Challenges of implementation of the RTI Act 989	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Lack of clear understanding of the procedures and process involved in requesting information from an institution	125	1	5	2.43	0.587
Lack of qualified staff to enforce the act on the various agencies	125	1	5	2.18	0.746
Inappropriate behavior on the part of institutional heads in terms of compliance to the Act	125	1	5	2.03	0.738
Corruption on the part of the officials who are implementing the RTI Act	125	1	5	4.12	0.774
Slow release of funds from the government to the commission for effective implementation of the RTI Act.	125	1	5	2.27	0.820
Lack of in-service training to enhance the knowledge of the staff who are implementing the RTI Act	125	1	5	2.06	0.835
Lack of awareness on the population on the existence of the RTI Act	125	1	5	2.11	0.573
Public pressure to get quick information without following the due process	125	1	5	2.39	0.814
Political interference in terms of the release of public information to the public.	125	1	5	1.47	0.648

Scale of 1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree.

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Discussions

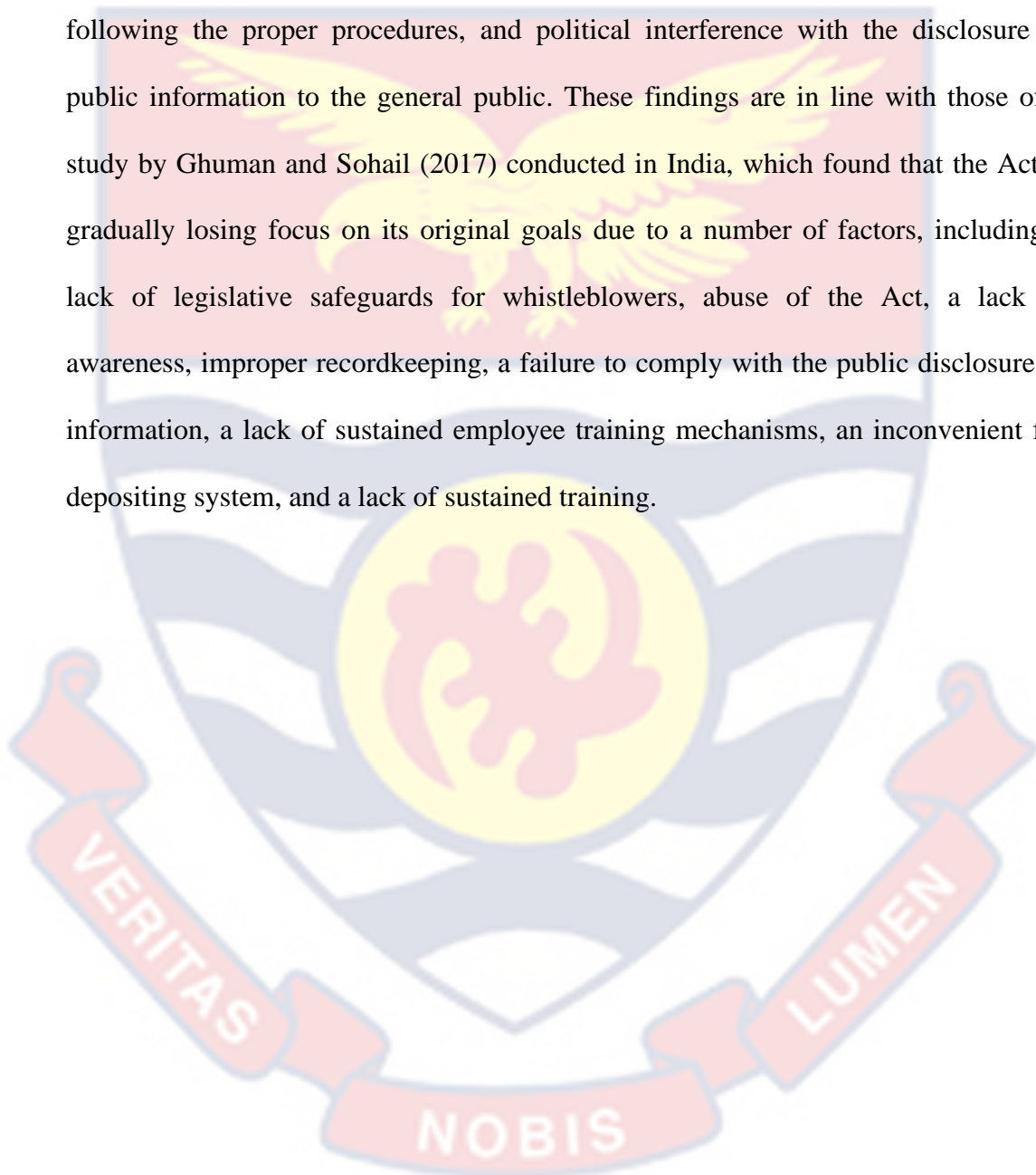
Concerning public understanding and familiarity with Accra Metropolis' right to information policy as implemented by the right to information commission. The survey found that a significant portion of Accra's population is aware of the Right to

Information Act, has read Act 989's RTI provision, and is aware of how the RTI Act 989 operates in Accra. However, a significant portion of the population had never requested any public information since the RTI Act's adoption in 1989. The majority of respondents report that they are aware of the RTI Act, which shows that it is generally known by the general public. These results are consistent with those of Abdulkadir (2015), whose research contends that the illiteracy of some journalists and the bureaucracy of public information managers are issues impacting the applicability of the Act in Katsina state.

The study came to the following conclusions: M&E is used in management decision-making, M&E is accountable for information rights, M&E resources are used sparingly, M&E operations are completed on time, The use of M&E methods in RTI implementation helps the Accra Metropolitan Right to Information Commission implement its monitoring and evaluation mechanism more successfully. This means that in the Accra metropolitan, M&E is essential to the RTI Act's execution. These results are consistent with AL-(2018) Busaidi's study, which discovered that the M&E of management choices, organizational learning, and accountability has not yet statistically contributed to good governance.

The study's findings showed a lack of understanding of the steps needed in seeking information from state institutions or agencies, a lack of skilled people to enforce the RTI Act 989 on the state's numerous agencies and departments, and improper behavior on the part of institutional heads. This indicates that the RTI commission in the Accra metropolis lacks workers with the necessary understanding about the application of the RTI Act. These results concur with Afolayan's (2012) research, which exposed the flaws in the Freedom of Information Act and the possibility that they will have an impact on Nigerians.

The study also found that the central government's slow release of funds to the commission for the effective implementation of the RTI Act, the lack of in-service training to improve the staff's knowledge of the RTI Act, the lack of public awareness of the existence of the RTI Act, public pressure to obtain information quickly without following the proper procedures, and political interference with the disclosure of public information to the general public. These findings are in line with those of a study by Ghuman and Sohail (2017) conducted in India, which found that the Act is gradually losing focus on its original goals due to a number of factors, including a lack of legislative safeguards for whistleblowers, abuse of the Act, a lack of awareness, improper recordkeeping, a failure to comply with the public disclosure of information, a lack of sustained employee training mechanisms, an inconvenient fee depositing system, and a lack of sustained training.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Introduction

The findings, conclusion, and recommendations for stakeholders are compiled in Chapter 5. The study assesses public awareness of the Accra Metropolitan Right to Information Commission's right to information policies. It also looks at how well-informed the public is about the Accra Metropolis Right to Information Commission's right to information policy. It again establishes the commission's monitoring and assessment procedures for the Right to Information Commission's implementation of the right to information policy in Accra Metropolis. It also looks into the difficulties the Right to Information Commission is having putting the right to information policy into practice in Accra.

Summary of the Study

Awareness and Knowledge of the People on the Right to Information Policy Act

The study examines public awareness of the Accra Metropolitan Area Access to Information Commission's right to information policy. In the Accra metropolis, 79.2% of respondents are familiar with the RTI Act, and 67.2% have read Act 989's RTI clause. Additionally, 83.2% believe the RTI statute guarantees access to public information, and 74.4% consider the Act effective. However, only 31.2% of respondents have applied for public information since the inception of the RTI Act, while 68.8% have not.

Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism and Right to Information Policy Implementation

On the monitoring and evaluation mechanism applied by the commission for the right to information policy implementation by the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis include corporate governance, emphasizing stakeholder involvement, risk management, and ethical principles. These mechanisms incorporate community participation, aligning with Ghana's constitutional mandate for citizen involvement in program implementation and decision-making processes. The study identified that none of the respondents strongly agreed on stakeholder participation in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) processes related to the right to information law. However, 20% agreed be involved. 35% of the respondents also indicated neutral, suggesting uncertainty. 30% disagreed that stakeholders were involved in the M&E activities, and 15% strongly disagreed, indicating clear opposition. Additionally, the research focuses on essential abilities for monitoring and assessment, revealing that 25% agreed and 20% strongly agreed on possessing the necessary skills, while 45% remained neutral. The findings conforms to that Kelly and Magongo (2004), who emphasized the importance of having experts overseeing monitoring and evaluation, with distinct individuals assigned to various tasks like data collection, analysis, report writing, and sharing M&E results. Gorgens et al. (2009) also highlighted the need for all M&E personnel to possess the necessary competencies to efficiently carry out their roles within the M&E system.

Challenges of the Implementation of the Right to Information Act 989

On the challenges of the implementation of the right to information Act by the Right to Information Commission in the Accra Metropolis the study revealed that there is:

1. A lack of clear understanding of the procedures and process involved in requesting information from state institutions or agencies,
2. Inappropriate behavior on the part of institutional heads in terms of compliance to the RTI Act 989,
3. Slow release of funds from central government to the commission for effective implementation of the RTI Act,
4. A lack of in-service training that will enhance the knowledge of the staff who are implementing the RTI Act,
5. A lack of awareness of the population on the existence of the RTI Act,
6. Public pressure to get quick information without following the due process,
7. Political interference in terms of the release of information to the public.

Conclusions

Majority of the Accra metropolis are aware of the RTI act, they have read the RTI provision in Act 989, the RTI act 989 provides right to access public information, the RTI Act 989 works in the Accra metropolis. However, most of the people had never applied for any public information since the implementation of the RTI Act 989.

The study concluded that M&E in management decision making, M&E accountability towards right to information, M&E resources are economically utilized, M&E activities are carried out within schedule, Application of M&E tools in RTI implementation enhance effective implementation of monitoring and evaluation mechanism applied by the commission to implement the Right to Information Commission in Accra Metropolis.

The study revealed significant challenges in implementing the RTI Act 989 in state institutions. These challenges include a lack of understanding of information request procedures, insufficient qualified staff for enforcement, non-compliance by institutional heads, slow funding disbursement, inadequate in-service training, low public awareness of the RTI Act, and political interference in public information release. Public pressure for quick information without due process further complicates the situation.

Recommendations

Based on the findings the study suggested some solutions for consideration by stakeholders to help tackle the implementation of the RTI Act.

The Accra commission overseeing the RTI Act should conduct annual workshops to educate its employees about the protocols and steps necessary for requesting information from public institutions. This is crucial because the study uncovered a significant lack of comprehension regarding these procedures when seeking information from state entities. Additionally, the commission must ensure they hire individuals with the necessary expertise and certification. The research exposed a shortage of qualified personnel capable of enforcing the act across different state agencies and departments.

Government and the Accra metropolitan Assembly should institute a strong punishment policy to deal with heads of institutions who failed to comply with the RTI Act as the finding revealed inappropriate behavior on the part of institutional heads in terms of compliance to the RTI Act 989.

Government of Ghana should make it a point to always release the funds for the RTI commission to enable perform its function well as the study revealed slow

release of funds from central government to the commission for effective implementation of the RTI Act.

The Ghana Commission for Civic Education plays a crucial role in enlightening the Ghanaian populace about the RTI Act, as the research has exposed a significant lack of awareness regarding its existence. Moreover, there is a pressing need for the commission to educate the public on the proper procedures outlined in the RTI Act for accessing public information. This is imperative due to the study's findings, which indicate a tendency among the public to seek rapid information without adhering to the necessary protocols.

Politicians must refrain from interfering in the decisions of the officials of state institutions who intend to disclose vital public information. Finding from the study revealed that political intervention hinders the release of crucial data to the public, depriving people in need. It is imperative to respect the transparency and independence of these institutions.

Recommendations for Further Studies

This study failed to evaluate the outcome of the Right to Information Law on access to information and how the law is being utilized. Further studies, should focus on this area.

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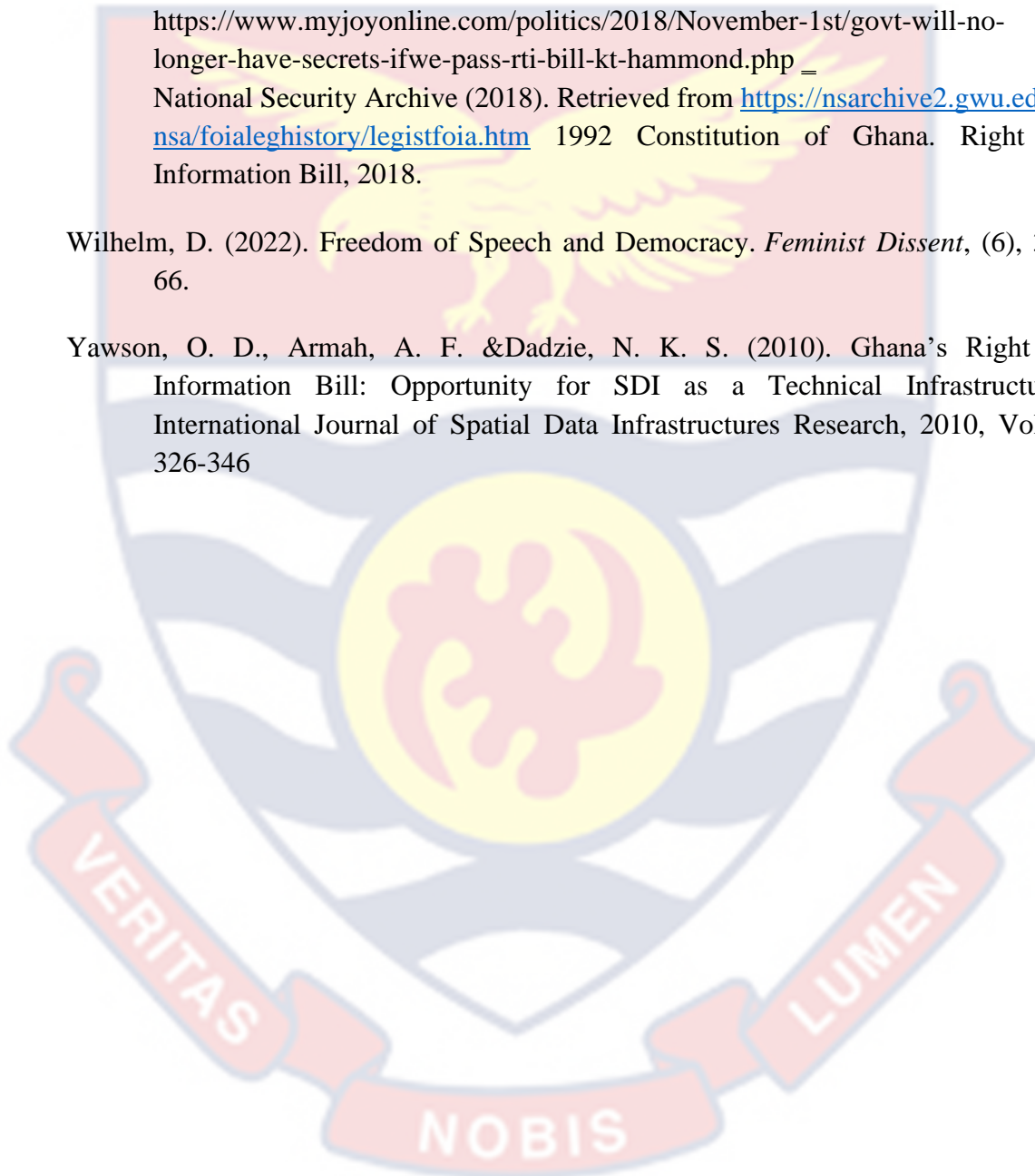
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APPENDICES**APPENDIX I**

Bridget Agyemang-Badu Questionnaire

Dear Sir/Madam.

This questionnaire is designed purely for academic purposes to solicit data on the study. This questionnaire is meant to collect information on the role of monitoring and evaluation in Ghana Right to Information Policy (RTI Act, (Act 989)) Implementation. Your contribution towards the completion of this questionnaire will be highly appreciated and the information collected through this questionnaire will be treated with confidentiality and used for academic purposes only. Kindly take a moment to answer all the questions as accurately as possible.

Section A: Background Information of Respondents

1. Gender of the respondent

a. Male [] b. Female []

2. What is your age bracket?

a. Below 20 years []

b. 20-30 years []

c. 31-40 years []

d. 41-50 years []

e. Above 50 []

3. What is your education level?

a. Primary []

b. Secondary []

c. Certificate/Diploma []

d. Undergraduate []

e. Postgraduate []

Section B: Awareness and Knowledge of RTI policies

1. Are you aware of the Right to Information Act, 1999?
 - a. YES [] b. NO []
2. Have you read the provisions of the Act?
 - a. YES [] b. NO []
3. Does the Act provide right to access public information?
 - a. YES [] b. NO []
4. Does the Act contain provisions that hinder access to public information?
 - a. YES [] b. NO []
5. Have you ever applied for access to any public information?
 - a. YES [] b. NO []
6. If yes, what was the response?
 - a. Granted [] b. Not granted [] c. Bureaucracy []
7. How many parastatals did you apply to?
 - a. One [] b. Two [] c. More than Two []
8. Do you think the Act can work in Accra Metropolis of Ghana?
 - a. YES [] b. NO []

Section C: Importance of the RTI Act

Please based on the following scale (scale: 1= strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=not sure, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree), please indicate how you agree or disagree with the following statements on the importance of the RTI Act.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
RTI make it easier for the people to enjoy the right to access information, as provided by the 1992 constitution					
RTI create an obligation for public institutions and relevant private bodies to provide information when requested					
Create a way for educating the public about the RTI Act, 2019 (Act989)					
Government give the RTI Commission the mandate to promote, monitor, protect and enforce the right to information that is granted to a person under Article 21 (1) (f) of the constitution					

Section D: Role of M&E

By ticking in the space provided, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following selected attributes with regards to the role of M&E.

1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
M&E Management Decision Towards Good Governance					
The role of M&E in management decisions enhances right to information					
The information management in the institutions is sufficient to support transparency and accountability					
Right to information which is a tenant of good governance					
Institutions pay attention to monitoring reports					
Policy makers consider monitoring reports with high regard rely on them for decision making					
The quality of information emanating from the M&E Departments and their feasibility within the existing managerial procedures is not at the level that is required.					
The human resources are crucial to overcoming challenges and achieving free access to information					
M&E Accountability Towards Right to Information					
M&E boost accountability and promote effectiveness and efficiency in the way information is accessed					
Information service institutions have a strong accountability procedures, standards, and functions					
Continuous assessments are being conducted					
Government has accountability establishment procedures, standards, and functions.					
M&E Organisational Learning Towards RTI					
Right to information is somehow influenced by M&E of organisational learning					
Organisational learning is a rigorous process that translate M&E into 'learning' encounters					
Less applications of M&E system results in poor knowledge gathered and poor management decisions					

Less contributions of M&E of accountability and information are made available for policymaking towards enhancing people’s access to information					
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Section E: The relationship between the Commission for the RTI and M&E.

By ticking in the space provided, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following selected attributes concerning the Commission for the RTI and M&E.

1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The commission uses M&E findings in decision making					
The commission always and clearly communicate M&E results					
The commission takes active part in designing the M&E systems					
The commission ensures sufficient resources are allocated to M&E					
The commission ensures that staff are trained on M&E regularly					
Government’s policy supports M&E					
The commission recognizes and supports the role of M&E					
The commission takes part in some of the M&E activities					
There is supportive supervision and guidance from the commission					

Section F: Effectiveness of M&E System

By ticking in the space provided, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following selected attributes concerning effectiveness of M&E System.

1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree

Effectiveness of M&E System	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Results and findings from M&E are relevant and useful					
The M&E activities are carried out within schedule					
The cost of M&E activities is always within the budget					
Results and feedback from M&E are timely					
M&E resources are economically utilized					
The M&E objectives are largely achieved					
The M&E responsibilities and duties are clearly defined					

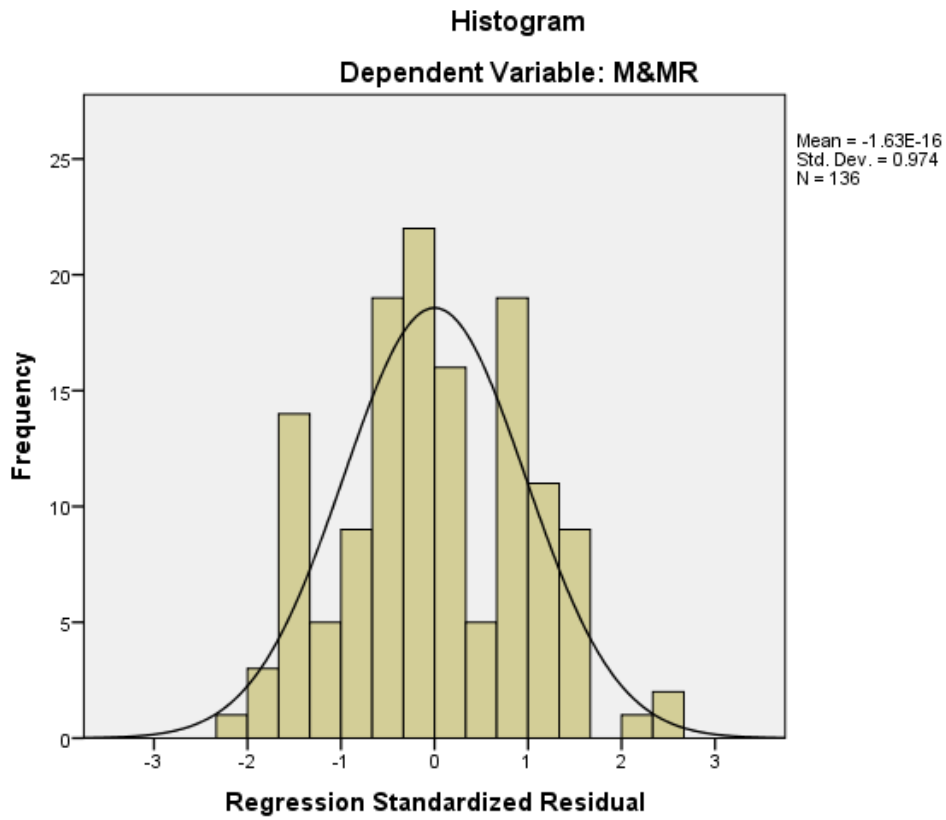
Section G Challenges of implementation of the RTI Act 989

By ticking in the space provided, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following selected attributes concerning Challenges of implementation of the RTI Act 989.

1 – Strongly agree, 2 – Agree, 3 - Not sure, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly disagree

Challenges of implementation of the RTI Act 989	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of clear understanding of the procedures and process involved in requesting information from an institution					
Lack of qualified staff to enforce the act on the various agencies					
Inappropriate behavior on the part of institutional heads in terms of compliance to the Act					
Corruption on the part of the officials who are implementing the RTI Act					
Slow release of funds from the government to the commission for effective implementation of the RTI Act.					
Lack of in-service training to enhance the knowledge of the staff who are implementing the RTI Act					
Lack of awareness on the population on the existence of the RTI Act					
Public pressure to get quick information without following the due process					
Political interference in terms of the release of public information to the public.					

APPENDIX II



Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual

