Efforts at Going Paperless: A Case Study of Three Higher Institutions in Ghana

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The outbreak of COVID-19 led many Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to go paperless as a sustainable practice. However, the impact of the initiative has not been investigated. This study seeks to study paperless initiatives in three HEIs in Ghana: the University of Ghana, Kumasi Technical University and Takoradi Technical University, to get baseline data for recommendations for the future. The study will compare these universities by assessing progress and savings, identifying further opportunities to reduce paper use, and developing a framework to guide and motivate HEIs in Ghana and beyond towards going paperless. The study will employ a qualitative approach, through interviews (university managers, teaching and non-teaching staff and students), structured observations and document reviews for analysis. A sustainability index/ framework will be developed to measure and document progress in the institutions. The study will inspire further action and provide a roadmap for HEIs to assess current progress in going paperless and identify and implement opportunities for improvement.