

**Date**

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School-based Management in Ugandan Primary Schools

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PRELIMINARY REPORT COMMENTS WELCOME

Abstract

Engaging local stakeholders in the management of primary schools is one of the most popular strategies for improving public education around the world. However, evaluations of these reforms have mixed results and underlying mechanisms are often unclear, raising questions as to why certain initiatives do or do not work and under what conditions. In this study, we contribute to the discourse on school-based management initiatives by advancing research on a particular intervention: a school scorecard program in which local actors are trained to monitor issues at their school. Originally evaluated in Uganda by Barr et al. (2012), a participatory version of the program was found to improve teacher attendance, student attendance, and test scores. A standard version of the program had smaller and statistically insignificant effects (Barr et al., 2012). The results of a behavioral game suggest that willingness to invest in the public good was a key mechanism behind the success of the participatory version (Barr et al., 2012). In a different region of Uganda, we implement the participatory version of the scorecard program, and combine process evaluation, qualitative research, and a quasi-experimental impact assessment to investigate the underlying mechanisms of impact and how the intervention interacts with the Ugandan educational context. Preliminary results find no impact on either teacher or student attendance, but a decrease in student transfer and school dropout. The process evaluation finds that schools focus on the role of parents and improving parent engagement.

# Ghana National Education Week: Evidence Summit 2019

## Reforming the Education Sector for Effective Service Delivery: Embracing Innovations

Improving education sector performance is a key policy priority for the Government of Ghana, and the Ministry of Education is currently undergoing a sector reform towards achieving effectiveness in education services delivery. To ensure that well-intentioned policy goals translate into improved learning outcomes, decision-makers are eager to: (1) learn about interventions and innovative practices that have proven to work; and (2) use such evidence and innovative solutions to improve planning and education services delivery.

2019's Evidence Summit, which forms part of the National Education Week (NEW), was held on **August 7**. The event brought together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to: a) share rigorous evidence that has been collected about innovative approaches to improve learning outcomes, in Ghana and internationally; and b) identify ways in which evidence can be used to drive the implementation of priority reforms, and facilitate better decision-making processes.

The Evidence Day of NEW provides a platform to discuss best practices and to draw out lessons for policy and education planning. Papers were presented, linked to this year's NEW theme, across the sub-sectors of education from early grade to tertiary level. This assisted the policymakers and sector practitioners with evidence to inform reform, planning and policy implementation for improved service delivery.

***More information about the summit's themes and the call for papers [is available here.](#)***

## **Summit Structure and Goals**

The evidence summit aimed to:

- Share results of high-quality research on what works in education from researchers and academics doing work in Ghana and internationally.
- Engage and inform stakeholders of emerging practices and innovations to improve education services delivery and attain quality education.
- Translate evidence into action by highlighting policy recommendations to inform the technical discussions and planning process during the NEW.

## **Call for Papers**

A Call for Papers was made to solicit an array of research work being carried out across the country and internationally. A Censor Panel of three members from MoE/GES, academia, and IPA convened to review the submissions and select high-quality studies whose lessons can inform the sector planning processes.

Papers were presented on Basic Education (including early childhood education), Secondary Education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Tertiary Education, and Planning and Management.

For all inquiries, please email [GHA\\_NEW2019@poverty-action.org](mailto:GHA_NEW2019@poverty-action.org)

*Information about last year's Education Week is [available here.](#)*

## **City**

Accra

## Country

Ghana