

Women in Cadastral Surveying -Its Challenges and Prospects In Ghana

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SUMMARY

Over the years, there has been a consistent increase in the number of women studying Geomatic Engineering in some of the universities and other institutions in Ghana. However, very few of these women have practised this field of study after graduating. While just a handful of female graduates now work in surveying and mapping firms, many are using their surveying education as a springboard to steady white-collar jobs. This raises the question as to why very few women are unwilling to practise land survey after studying it in their institutions.

Some of these factors are the physical demand of the profession. Very, very few women are able to muddle through the tedious routine of land survey. The idea of climbing hills and being in the bush, etc is dispiriting to most women.

Also, difficulty in combining life as a surveyor with keeping the home (Domestic activities) deters a lot of Ghanaian women from pursuing the profession further.

Furthermore, most clients also doubt the competency of a female surveyor and these women have had to battle with being accepted as very capable professionals.

In addition to the already factors indicated above, in Ghana, there have been several cases of “land guard” attacks on land surveyors on-site.

In spite of all these challenges, few women are determined to make an impact on the female engineering society and the world at large.

With the advent of modernised technology, surveying has become less robust and hence women

would not always need physical strength to be in the profession. Government and other organisations are also making concerted efforts to promote females in the engineering field, for that matter, survey.

The profession holds unlimited opportunities for women and society also has a role to play in encouraging female surveyors to higher heights.

Some suggestions would be made on what to do to increase female participation in surveying and the prospects it holds for women in Ghana.