

KMMF GRANT RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT ID: 15-218
**RESEARCH PROJECT: A Study Of Social Systems And Spatial Practices In
 Informal Communities In Accra, Ghana.**

1. Introduction

This report provides a brief overview on the above mentioned study title that has benefit from the generous support of KMMF to execute this study in Ghana. Specifically, the purpose is to present the activities and outputs of the research. It also considers the opportunities and challenges encountered in the course of the study.

2. Background and Scope

in line with the original objectives of this research, the study was conducted La District of the Metropolitan Area of the capital of Ghana—Accra. Specifically, Abese and Nmati informal communities within the La city council were surveyed. The study focused on social activities (resident practices) and spatial practices in the two selected informal settlements. The study started from November 3, 2015 to December 1, 2015.

3. Activities undertaken

Table 1 illustrates the main activities undertaken during this period of research.

Table 1: Research activities in relation to original proposal

SN	Proposed stages of field research	Status
1.	Preparation of questionnaire for field survey	Done
2.	Travel to Ghana, meeting with local chiefs and people and community entry	Returned to Japan on December 4, 2015.
3.	Start of field survey and administration of questionnaires	Done
4.	Focused group discussions with local NGOs and community leaders	Done
5.	Field review and filling data gaps	Done
6.	Return to Japan and collation of field work and data organization	Done
7.	Analyses of field data	Done
8.	Formulation and design of proposals and strategies for community improvement	Done
9.	Submission of final report to foundation	Not yet

4. Opportunities

- The grant from KMMF provided an important opportunity to collect empirical data for my research to help understand positive social practices in informal settlements. It provides an empirical basis to begin to think and discuss how efforts can be made to improve the life of poor urban residents in informal settlements in Accra.
- Secondly, the field research promoted social networks and connections to people who can be helpful in the future development of informal

settlements. During the field survey, my supervisor and myself came several people who were deeply interested in our research and were willing to assist future research in the future.

- Our research has encouraged some Japanese students in the master course to contribute to the development of human settlements in Ghana through research. Currently, one Japanese student is planning her research in informal communities in Ghana in November 2016. She became deeply interested in informal communities after she read part of our research output from the field survey.
- Several people have also become interested in the KMMF. Many of my colleagues from Ghana who are studying in other countries started reading about the KMMF and were appreciative of their initiative to provide funds for research in Ghana.
- There study has also provided the beginning of an important cooperation in the future, in terms of research between Japan and Ghana. My professor is currently thinking about such plans between my department and another university in Ghana.

5. Challenges

The main challenges during the research survey were

- Lack of proper accounting. Getting receipt for transactions in Ghana is very difficult. Many commercial services do not give receipt after sales. It makes recording keeping very difficult and affects accountability. For instance, taxi drivers, translators, chiefs, some restaurants and even guests' houses offer no useful receipts for transactions.
- The worsening economic conditions also meant that it as becoming expensive to do research in Ghana, many households who were interviewed requested for money or some sort of support after the interviews. It was a very delicate situation. Some people were not willing to grant interviews if they were not given some money or reward.

6. Conclusion

In summary, the research was successfully done. Data from the field has been analyzed and organized into an academic article that is under review for publication. The results of the research have been very insightful and academically revealing. The results of the research will also be presented to the community in December 2016. This will begin community discussions about how to improve the community based on findings from the study.

1. Community meeting during the field survey



2. Picture with community leaders



3. After an interview



4. This woman wanted to show Ghana culture to Japan (women's leader in the community)

