InternationalJour. of Manage.Studies.,Statistics & App.Economics
(IJMSAE), ISSN 2250-0367, Vol.2, No. II (December 2012), pp. 191-202

THE LOVE OF MONEY, MACHIAVELLIANISIM, AND UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR: A CASE STUDY OF STUDENTS IN GHANA AND UGANDA

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Abstract

During the last decade many scandals and corruption cases involving civil and public servants in Uganda have been widely reported on by the media and the incidences of reported cases appears to be on the increase also in Ghana.. The main objective of the study was to determine the propensity to engage in unethical behavior among students undertaking business administration/ management programs in Ghana and Uganda. A case study approach was used in two institutions, whose individual names/identity has been with held, one located in Koforidua, Ghana, and the other, in Kampala Uganda. The study used a quantitative methodology with a cross sectional survey research design. Data was obtained from 256 (Uganda) and 379 (Ghana) returned questionnaires. The study used the measurement scales for Love of Money (LOM) and Machiavellianism, descriptive statistics, correlations and regression were used in the analysis. The findings showed that while the LOM is not significantly correlated to the propensity to commit unethical behavior in the Uganda study while the Ghana study found it to be significantly correlated to unethical behavior in the case of undergraduate students. Machiavellianism has a greater influence on unethical behavior in Uganda while LOM is more important in Ghana. The importance of the research is that it has provided an insight into the propensity to engage in unethical behavior by undergraduate students. Engaging in unethical behavior will nearly always impact very negatively on the career path of professionals. The findings also inform curriculum development and education policy formulation.

Keywords: Love of money, Machiavellianism, unethical behavior.

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