

Exploring the Factors Influencing Investment Decision of Workers of Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority, Takoradi

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Abstract This research explored the factors which influence investment decision of workers of Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority, Takoradi using a quantitative research approach, with descriptive survey as the design. The population of study comprised both permanent and contract staff of the organization. A total of 254 employees were selected using random sample method, with 61.4% response rate and a set of questionnaire as the research instrument. Frequencies and percentages were relied upon for analyzing the obtained data. The study revealed that investment sales agents, TV/Newspapers, family members' referrals, social media as well as the Books/Magazine were the main sources of investment information to workers of GPHA. Again, insurance policy is the commonest investment product workers relied upon. Also, safety, risk and returns, liquidity, and diversification factors were the main factors influencing investment decision of workers of GPHA. It is recommended that the Central Bank of Ghana should develop clear measures to protect the premium of investors. Again, the Management of GPHA should periodically organize sensitization and public education programs for its employees on investment decisions in order to increase the level of knowledge of staff members of organization in terms of investment.

Keywords Assets, Financial, Financial literacy, Investment, Returns, Risk, Savings, Workers

1. Introduction

Investment has become a widely discussed topic over the past decades. It is mainly concerned with wealth creation and wealth maximization. People often invest with the hope of obtaining good returns. Investment is also a means of growing one's wealth [1]. It is believed that when people invest their savings bonds, mutual funds, stocks and other investment channels their wealth appreciates and accumulates, and ultimately earn extra income on their premium. People also invest in order to achieve financial goals or towards specific projects such as starting a business, buying a land, buying a car, building or buying a house, among others. When investment is properly done it helps people to achieve these objectives as they earn higher returns than the normal savings account [2].

As part of the strategies for better retirement, some people invest part of their savings. They buy stocks, bonds and other long term investments in order to ensure they live a

comfortable life after years of active service. [2] Investment is seen as the process of buying financial securities or instruments with the main intention of getting higher returns or yield in the near future. Investment is about taking risks based on the state of the market or economy at a given time. Investment is also defined as the deliberate process of setting money aside to buy securities or physical assets with the expectation of it appreciating or yielding good returns after a particular period of time. It is usually issued by a financial institution or corporate body [2].

In their study, Malviya and Pandey identified various types of financial investments. They include savings and fixed deposit, physical assets such as gold, diamond, silver, real estate and lands. Others are marketable investments such as debentures and securities, non-marketable investments, transferable and non-transferable investments [3]. The ever-increasing advancement in technology has made the accessibility of products and services less difficult [2]. Today, one does not need special qualifications to invest and one does not need to be enormously rich to invest. All that is needed is a certain level of financial literacy or awareness. In support, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

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Development (OECD) posits that good financial literacy skills enable people to make good financial decisions including how to use or invest their monies. The absence of financial literacy potentially makes people display behavioural patterns that can make them vulnerable to financial crisis [2].

Financial literacy is vital in investments since it helps investors to maintain a positive attitude towards money. It also makes available the appropriate knowledge and skills investors need to assess the most suitable financial products and financial instruments for them. In order to make prudent investment decisions, Ohene-Bredu challenges investors to do a lot of research to gain a lot of insight into the investment they intend to undertake and seek proper advice especially if they are investing in foreign stock markets [2].

In recent times, investment has changed in developing countries in Africa and Ghana is no exception. There are several financial instruments and investment institutions in Ghana. These institutions often provide clients with sophisticated and refined financial packages. People are now embracing investment, with some investing directly through the Ghana Stock Exchange whilst others invest through financial or investment institutions in the country [2].

As a way to make the lives of especially workers easier, a number of investment instruments or opportunities have been made available to them. For instance, in developed countries such as the USA, UK, France, Germany, etc. a number of investment packages have been made available in various organizations for the workers. Some of these investment opportunities available in organizations are marketable and liquid whilst others have been found to be non-marketable and highly risky [4]. Despite the upswing of investment packages in both developed and developing countries, many workers in Ghana appear not to be showing much interest in the investment opportunities available to them. The seeming low interest of some workers in the formal sector of Ghana to invest may be due to some bad experiences in the past. Many investors sometimes struggle to get the returns on their investments from investment companies [2].

In Ghana, there have been several instances of investment fraud. There is also the issue of illegal sales of investment policies to individuals [5]. For example, people who invest their savings in an investment company never received the expected returns [6]. There is also the case of the DKM microfinance where many people invested their monies because the company promised a lot of luxurious profits to customers. In the end, many of the clients could not receive their returns, leading to much disappointment and erosion of confidence in the activities of microfinance companies in Ghana [7].

In spite of the few above cases of investment failures in Ghana, there is a wide recognition of paucity of knowledge as far as issues of investment are concerned in the country. There are concerns on what are the major considerations of people in respect to investment decisions. Although scholars have identified factors such as tax saving, diversification,

affordability, liquidity among others as the reasons people tend to sign onto investment policies, the situation in Ghana is not very clear. According to Ohene-Bredu, there seem to be limited literature on the factors influencing investment decisions of Ghanaian workers including those in Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority (GPHA), Takoradi [2]. Given the ever-increasing relevance of investment in today's economy, it is of huge importance that studies be done into the issue of investment in order to help push back the frontiers of people's ignorance. It is in the light of this that this study finds relevance. Specifically, the study explored the sources of investment information available to workers, products workers of GPHA have invested in, and the factors which influence workers' decision to invest using Takoradi Ports as a case.

2. Literature Review

Understanding the concept of Investment

Investment is of huge importance to every individual and every economy. Nations will find it very to thrive without investments. Investment is the process of creating wealth and putting money to good use without having to work for it. This means that investment ensures that people actually put that hard-earned monies to good use with the view to creating more wealth. On their part, Iyer and Bhaskar conceived investment as buying a monetary asset with the aim that more income will flow from it in the near future or the price would appreciate or increase in order to be sold [2].

Again, the term 'investing' is associated with activities which involve employing the money (funds) during a given time period with the aim of enhancing the investor's wealth. Usually, funds which are invested come from savings, borrowed money and or assets already owned by the individual. As investors decide to forego consumption and rather invest their savings, they expect to enhance their future consumption possibilities through expanding their wealth [8]. In an attempt to further bring clarity to the concept, Estrada identifies two main types of investment, namely real investment and financial investment. Generally, real investments entail some kind of tangible asset, such as land, machinery and factories whereas financial investments consist of contracts in paper or electronic form including stocks, bonds, etc. [8]

[9] Fabozzi and Drake wrote on the different types of investments. The scholars stated that there are two types of investments, namely; direct investment and indirect investments. The views expressed by Fabozzi and Drake have been supported by Estrada [8]. However, Estrada goes ahead to explain direct investment as involving the use of financial markets but indirect investment entails financial intermediaries. The author adds that the main distinction between these two types of investments lies in the fact that applying direct investment facilitates buying and selling of financial assets and the management of individual investment portfolio themselves [8]. In essence, direct

investments in the financial markets involve all the risk and their success often depends on an adequate understanding of financial markets, its fluctuations and on the abilities to analyze and to evaluate the investments and to manage their investment portfolio.

On the other hand, investors tend to use indirect investment to buy or sell financial instruments of financial intermediaries (financial institutions) that invest large pools of funds in the financial markets and hold portfolios. It is believed that indirect investment relieves investors from taking decisions about their portfolio. Investors as shareholders with the ownership interest in the portfolios managed by financial institutions (pension funds, insurance companies, investment companies, commercial banks), are entitled to their share of dividends, interest and capital gains generated and pay their share of the institution's expenses and portfolio management fee [8].

Direct investing involves the purchase and sale of securities in portfolio. There are three main types of securities under direct investing namely, money market securities, capital securities and derivative securities. Money market securities include treasury bills and commercial papers whilst examples of capital securities are stocks and bonds [8,2]. Indirect Investing deals with investing through mutual funds and closed-end funds. Here, investors do not have full control of the investment; they only choose to buy or sell their securities.

For investments to be effective people need to be financially literate. In support of this assertion, Individuals with lower financial knowledge are not likely to accrue wealth or save or invest towards retirement. Financial literacy impacts on investors' behavior. When there is low financial literacy, it tends to affect investors' behaviours. It is sometimes very difficult to determine investors' behavior as they behave irrationally at times due to the fear of losing their investments [2].

[2] Connor and Becker posited that investors are rational beings who are mostly concerned with wealth maximization. [2] Scholars including Singh and Murgea reject the claim by Connor and Becker when they opined that decision making by investors is not often based on rationale analysis or factors but is also largely influenced by emotional and psychological factors. This is also the case when it comes to investment decisions. In deepening Murgea's contention, [11] Byrne and Utkus submit that emotions tend to influence decisions concerning investment as a result of human behavior. Nonetheless, Connor and Becker believe that there is the need to study the values and attitudes of people in order to help them improve their investment decisions [2].

Investment Opportunities (Products)

There are various investment opportunities available to people to achieve their goals in life today. In places such as India, a number of avenues exist for individuals with respect to investment opportunities in the country [10] Geetha and Ramesh further identified equity, fixed investment (FI) bonds, corporate debenture, company fixed, bank fixed, life

insurance, real estate and mutual funds as some of the investment opportunities in the country [10]. Similarly, [12] Patil and Nandawar classified investment into traditional investment and alternative investment. Traditional investment includes bonds, cash, real estate (residential and commercial) and equity, whilst alternative investments are considered as a tool to reduce investment risks through diversification. Alternative investments are mainly associated with low correlation of financial investment like bonds and stocks, difficulties in determining the current market value of an asset. Alternative investments are relatively liquid which often demands cost of purchase and sale which may be considerably high [12]. In the views of Beattie [13], there are three types of investments namely, ownership investments, lending investments and cash equivalents. Ownership investments focus on the mind of people in terms of profitability which is linked to investment. Examples of ownership investments are real estate, collectibles, stocks, business and precious objects [14,2].

Investment stocks are similar to shares. This is because both stocks and shares entail purchasing a share in the equity of a business in the light that the share price would increase so as to generate more profits [12]. It is widely contended that investment in stock market is good which should be considered since it generates more profit, despite its associated high investment to investors. Thus, people who may want to go into the stock investment are advised to clearly understand the market dynamics and also have adequate knowledge and skills regarding the factors which influence the investment markets [2].

Business or Entrepreneurship

The amount of money which is pumped into a business by an individual is in itself an investment [15]. Entrepreneurship is considered as one of the toughest investments to make by individuals. Nonetheless, when individuals are committed to this through creation of a product or service, they stand to make great fortunes [2].

Real Estate

According to Ohene-Bredu, a real estate can be residential or commercial. Residential real estate is the commonest real estate known by people. It includes the purchasing of properties, when an individual is not able to raise the required amount for the property, the individual can borrow from a bank or company to complete the private property [2]. On the other hand, commercial real estate involves the sale or purchase of apartments, retail space, office buildings, hotels and other commercial properties [2].

Lending Investments

Lending investments simply entail the bank or financial institutions investments. These institutions often tend to offer lower risk ownership of investment. Examples of the lending investment are saving accounts, mutual funds and bonds [16,2]. Bonds are regarded very essential in the investment typology. With a bond, a fixed income of investment of an investor is loaned to either a government or

corporate organization for a period of time on an interest. The interest is usually fixed. It can be established that most developing countries are into bond agreements with banks in the developed countries. For example, the Government of Ghana issued a \$ 2.5 billion dollars bond to offset its energy sector debts [17]. Bonds can be used by companies, district or municipal assemblies, states and even sovereign government to raise funds to support their projects [2].

Mutual Funds

As an emerging area of investment in developing countries including Nigeria and Ghana [18], mutual funds are often operated by professional managers in investment. These allocate funds so as to produce capital gains for the fund's investment. Notable mutual funds in Ghana are the Databank E-pack and M-fund. Other funds operating in Ghana include E-pack, M-fund and life insurance. The E-pack investment fund was introduced in Ghana around 1994 with GHC 200 billion and 12000 investors. The E-pack is a long term investment initiative established by the Databank to assist individuals in Ghana with their financial needs. With the E-pack investment plan there is no maximum amount of money an individual can invest into, you can invest as higher as your strength can lead you [2]. The Money Market Fund (M-Fund) was established in the year 2004. It is a low-risk investment mutual fund that works as an investment alternative to a savings that helps you meet your short term financial goals. Databank believes that planning for a short term is as important as planning for a long term. Short term investment package helps in the easy access of your funds and the peace of mind in knowing that your money invested is safe and secured [2]. M-Fund is a short term investment package for individuals that offer better returns.

Life Insurance

One of the investment packages that have been trending recently in Ghana are life insurance policies. Most of the insurance companies and banks in Ghana now offer life insurance policies. The life insurance policies promote savings and provide insurance covers to individuals. The life insurance policies cover areas such as health, death, education, wedding, among others [19,20].

Factors which influence workers' decision to invest

The debate on which factors will influence people's decision to invest has been age-long. Researchers and practitioners in the field of finance have all shown unending interests concerning the factors which affect workers' decision to invest. Since there would be pension for any individual working in any organization, health, birth rate among other family issues there is the need to consider the factors that would motivate individuals to invest [2]. Many countries both the developed and developing world have realized the huge financial burden in attaining their socio-economic development and sustainability of their economies so there is the urgent need to consider the issues of investment at the workplace [21].

[22] Millarn and Devonish argued that various factors influence workers' decision to invest. For examples, in a study in the United Kingdom factors such as knowledge on the investment and advice on investment influence people's decision to invest [22]. Knowledge about a given investment enables potential investors the opportunity to know more about the products they wish to invest their resources in. Potential investors have the greater responsibility on the individual to know the capital, asset and contributions regarding a particular investment [23] Praba observed that normally individuals have very little knowledge about investment capital. Patil and Nandawar found that individuals do not have basic knowledge on some investment products. For example, they lack basic knowledge on the difference between money market securities and the bond of governments [12].

Other factors which affect investment decisions are past market trends, risk appetite, horizon of investment, surplus investible and he returns of the investment [12]. Other scholars including [24] Stolper, and [25] Fischer and Himme have identified current financial position of workers, financial goals, risks and returns and expenditure as factors which affect investment decisions of workers.

[26] Sellapan and Jamuna identified demographic factors such as the main factor as exerting influence on investment decisions. Veena researched the topic Determination of factors exerting influence on investment [27]. Behaviour with special Focus on working women stated that, of all the demographical factors, age is very key in influencing investment decisions of individual and potential investors. He further asserted that educational qualification of respondents influences their behaviour to invest and that, academically inclined persons do make very informed investment decision than those with less academically inclined person [27].

In a research conducted by Preethi and Kuttalam, it was found that respondents of ages between 30 to 40 years are investment thirsty and that they are eager and interested to take any investment opportunity that comes their way [28].

[27] Veena identified age, marital status, level of education, occupation, income level and family size as demographic factors that influence investment decisions. According to Veena, social factors such as household financial needs and daily money movement management, family influence on decision making, family members opinion on investment and source of financial information also impact on investment decision of people [27]. Psychological factors including confidence level, investor optimism, investor conservatism and investor beliefs affect investment behavior of people [27]. The accounting literacy is categorized under other factors which are summarized into fundamental factors, technical factors, and market information factors. Al-Tamimi posits that the idea of get rich-quick and the likes also significantly affects investment behaviour of individual [29].

3. Methodological Approach

The quantitative research approach was relied upon in this study, with descriptive survey as the design. The population of study was made up of the permanent and contract staff of GPHA. Takoradi. In all, there were 906 workers made up of 770 permanent staff and 136 contract staff of the organization. However, this study focused on the permanent staff of the Organization. [30] Using Kirk's sample size determination table, 254 respondents were selected for the study out 770 permanent staff through simple random (lottery method) sampling technique. The simple random approach was used because almost every staff at G.P.H.A invests one way or the other through insurance, investment companies among others. The researchers used a structured questionnaire to gather data from the respondents. However, during the actual data collection, 156 respondents returned their filled questionnaires. This represents a 61.4% response rate. The respondents were drawn from various departments including the safety department, the welfare department, the security department and the HR department. The permanent employees (770) of the various departments all took part in the study. The data collected from respondents was coded and processed using the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) whilst descriptive statistical tools such as frequencies and percentages were used. Tables and graphs were used to present the results for easy appreciation.

4. Results and Discussion

The results and discussion is presented in two parts. The first part looks at the demographic data of respondents whilst the other part considers the key issues which informed this research. Demographic characteristics explored in this research are sex, age, educational level, working experience and the monthly income of the respondents. For instance, Table 1 shows 69.4% of the respondents were males whilst 35.9% were females. Thus, the majority (64.1%) of the respondents were males. The male dominance may be attributed to the kind of jobs which take place at the institution. For instance, more males are often needed to plan, build, manage, develop and control all the sea ports in Ghana as well as providing port facilities and services to port users [2].

Table 1. Sex Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	100	64.1
Female	56	35.9
Total	156	100.00

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

On age distribution of the respondents, it is seen that 37.2% were between the ages of 31 and 40 years, 25.6% were between the ages of 21 and 30 years, whilst 14.8% were 51 years and above (Table 2). This implies that the majority

(62.8%) of the respondents were between the ages of 21 and 40 years.

Table 2. Age of Respondents

Age Range	Frequency	Percent
21-30years	40	25.6
31-40years	58	37.2
41-50years	35	22.4
51years and above	23	14.8
Total	156	100

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

Regarding the level of education, the study revealed that 21.2% had obtained bachelor's degree, 9.6% had acquired their master's degree, whilst 25.6% had SSSCE/WASSSCE as their highest qualification as shown in Table 3. However, it is clear from the same table that though many (53.2%) had obtained at least High National Diploma as their educational qualification or better. This finding contradicts previous studies including Odoom, Opoku and Ayipah-Ntiakoh [31], Odoom, Kyeremeh and Opoku [32] Ndegwe and Levy [33], and Gyabaah [34] who found that educational qualifications of public sector organizations are generally inadequate in Ghana which affects efficiency in performance towards goal attainment.

Table 3. Level of Education of Respondents

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent
SSSCE/WASSSCE	40	25.6
Certificate	33	21.2
High National Diploma (HND)	35	22.4
Bachelor Degree	33	21.2
Master's Degree	15	9.6
Total	156	100

Source: Field work (2018)

With respect to how long the respondents had worked in the organization, Table 4 shows that 22.4% had worked between 4 and 6 years, 21.2% had worked between 7 and 10 years, with 12.8% having been there in less than a year.

Table 4. Work Experience

Work Experience (In years)	Frequency	Percent
Below 1 year	20	12.8
1-3	33	21.2
4-6	35	22.4
7-10	33	21.2
Above 10	35	22.4
Total	156	100

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

Thus, majority (66%) of the respondents had been with the Organization for not less than four years, which is very positive for organizational goal attainment. This is because, according to Odoom *et al.*, in addition to educational

qualifications, employees need some level of experience in order to be competent in dealing with organizational and social issues [32].

The last demographic studied is the income level of respondents. This variable is important in this study because the level of income of employees also affects their attitudes towards saving and investments. Based on this, the researchers asked the respondents to indicate the range of their monthly net income. From Table 5, it is seen that 27.6% said that their monthly income ranges from GHC 1,600 to 2000, 35.3% indicated that they had GHC 2,100 to 2,500 as their monthly income range, whereas 21.1% stated their income was not less than GHC 1,100. This shows that majority (62.9%) of the permanent workers at GPHA, Takoradi received between GHC 1,600 and GHc 2,500. This situation is very encouraging considering the poverty gap in Ghana [1]. Besides, with relatively good income, respondents could better be positioned to invest.

Table 5. Range of Monthly Net Income of Respondents

Income (Ghc)	Frequency	Percent
Below 500	20	12.8
600-1000	13	8.3
1100-1500	15	9.6
1600-2000	43	27.6
2100-2500	55	35.3
Above 2500	10	6.4
Total	156	100

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

Sources of Investment Information Available to Workers

The study first looked at the sources of investment information available to workers of GPHA which would cause them to invest their monies. It is clear in Table 6 that 28.8% said that their source of investment information are investment sales agents, and 22.4% being the information from friends.

Table 6. Sources of Investment Information Available to Workers

Source	Frequency	Percent
TV/Newspapers	10	6.4
Family members	20	12.8
Internet	23	14.8
Books/Magazine	23	14.8
Investment sales agents	45	28.8
Friends	35	22.4
Total	156	100

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

Again, information from the TV/Newspapers constituted 6.4%, whilst information from family members had 12.8%. Other sources of investment information included internet in the form of Facebook, websites, etc. as well as the Books/Magazine as a source of awareness. This means that the majority (51.2%) of the respondents had investment sales

agents and friends as the main sources of investment information. However, with the increasing influence of both traditional and social media, it is important that stakeholders of investments make use of them.

Products Workers of Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority have invested in

Beyond the sources of investment information, the researchers explored the various products respondents have invested in over the past years (Table 7). Investment products respondents or workers at GPHA have invested in are shown in the Table 7. Based on this, the study found that life insurance (27.6%), mutual funds (26.9%), treasury bills (16.7%), and stocks (7.7%). Other products were fixed deposits (6.6%), bonds (7.7%) and real estates (7.7%).

Table 7. Investment products workers of GPHA invest their monies in

Product	Frequency	Percent
Mutual funds	42	26.9
Real estates	6	3.8
Stocks	12	7.7
Treasury bills	26	16.7
Bonds	12	7.7
Fixed deposits	15	9.6
Life insurance	43	27.6
Total	156	100

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

It is not very surprising that respondents revealed real estates and bonds are among the investment products they least patronized. These products often require huge investments; thus with the income of respondents it is very likely they might not be in a position to invest in real estates and bonds. Again, the various products indicates that workers of GPHA, Takoradi show interest in investment policies. The findings of this study generally support that of Geetha and Ramesh (2011) who identified bonds, life insurance, real estate, mutual funds, etc. as investment products available to investors. In an attempt to bring clarity to the issues, [12] Patil and Nandawar listed bonds, cash, real estate, among others as traditional investment products. Products such as real estate and stocks have been described as ownership investment [13,14,2].

Factors that would Influence Workers to Invest

The final part of this research focused on the factors which influenced workers at GPHA, Takoradi to invest. The result from the study revealed that safety, risk and returns, liquidity and diversification factors influence workers' investment at GPHA, Takoradi. The results are shown in Table 8. One of the factors that influence workers to invest at the workplace is safety. Safety is considered a factor in investment by salaried workers at GPHA, Takoradi because workers consider "*investment venture's reputation and past performances*". Workers also consider "*the premium amount that can be protected in the case of economic decline*". From Table 8, 43.1% of the respondents generally agreed

that investment venture (72.5%) and reputation and past performances (70.6%) are safety factors which would influence their decision to invest. Also, 72.5% of the respondents generally said that what influences their decision to invest is the protection they hope to get on their premium amount during economic decline.

Risk and returns are other factors influence workers' decision to invest. People like to invest because of the returns they expect to get from their investments. Thus, 70.6% respondents believed that the rate of returns in investment products tends to encourage them to invest. In essence, if the rate is higher, more people would invest. However, with low rate people choose to avoid such investments.

Table 8. Factors that would Influence Workers to Invest

Factor	Strongly Disagree Freq.(%)	Disagree Freq.(%)	Undecided Freq.(%)	Agree Freq.(%)	Strongly Agree Freq.(%)
Safety Factor					
The investment venture's reputation	20(12.8)	17(10.9)	6(3.8)	56(36)	57(36.5)
Past performances investment venture	9(5.7)	17(10.9)	20(12.8)	56(36)	54(34.6)
Protection of premium amount in case of economic decline	20(12.8)	17(10.9)	6(3.8)	56(36)	57(36.5)
Risk and Returns Factor					
The level of risk of the investment	25(16.0)	22(14.1)	6(3.8)	51(32.7)	52(33.3)
The rate of the returns	9(5.7)	17(10.9)	20(12.8)	56(36)	54(34.6)
Liquidity Factor					
The ability to convert the investment into cash	25(16.0)	22(14.1)	6(3.8)	51(32.7)	52(33.3)
The maturity of the investment	20(12.8)	17(10.9)	6(3.8)	56(36)	57(36.5)
Diversification Factor					
The prospect of reducing losses	9(5.7)	17(10.9)	20(12.8)	56(36)	54(34.6)
Opportunity to invest in both risky and non- risky investment ventures	26(16.7)	21(13.5)	5(3.2)	52(33.3)	52(33.3)
Knowledge Factor					
Basic knowledge about investment	20(12.8)	17(10.9)	6(3.8)	56(36)	57(36.5)
Knowledge about contributions regarding a particular investment	9(5.7)	17(10.9)	20(12.8)	56(36)	54(34.6)
Knowledge about investment products	26(16.7)	21(13.5)	5(3.2)	52(33.3)	52(33.3)

Source: Fieldwork (2018)

Besides, the level of risk (66%) was observed as a factor which influences workers' decision to invest. The higher the risk the lower the number of people who choose to invest. The result is in line with Patil and Nandawar [12] who found that risk associated with investment through diversification is one factor people consider when making investment decisions. Other scholars such as Stolper [24], Fischer and Himme [25] have identified risks and returns as factors which influence investment decisions. However, factors such as current financial position of the worker, financial goals and expenditure were not among the factors identified by the respondents in the study.

Another factor which was found to influence investment decision of workers of GPHA is the liquidity factor. Liquidity is concerned with the ability of investors to convert their investment into cash and the maturity of the investment. It is succinct in Table 8 that 66% of the respondents stated that their ability to convert their investment into cash is a vital factor influencing their decision to invest. With respect to maturity of their investment, about two-third (72.5%) of the respondents believed that when their investments will mature is a critical factor which affects their investment

decisions.

In the same vein, the respondents mentioned diversification is a factor which would influence them to invest. For example, 70.6% of the respondents stated that the prospect of them reducing losses influences their decision to invest. This simply means that most of the workers who took part in this study believed that they would only invest if they have the prospect of reducing losses associated with investments. The present study mirrors Patil and Nandawar who contended the ability to reduce loses is one factor influencing investment decision. Patil and Nandawar explained further that investment which has the prospect of reducing loses is classified as alternative investments [12].

Lastly, knowledge was found to be an important determiner as far as investment decisions of workers of GPHA is concerned. For example, 72.5% of the respondents generally indicated that their basic knowledge about investment influences their decision to invest. This means that when they lack basic knowledge about investment it will be very difficult for them to invest. It was again observed that most (70.6%) of the respondents considered knowledge about contributions regarding a particular investment as a

factor influencing their investment decisions. Estrada (2010) contends that to be successful with investments, one requires basic knowledge about investment. The results of this study further strengthen the position of other scholars including Praba [23], and Millarn and Devonish [22] who argued that basic knowledge about investment is crucial in taking investment decisions.

5. Conclusions

The study showed that sources of investment information available to workers of GPHA are investment sales agents, TV/Newspapers, family members' referrals, social media as well as the Books/Magazine. Besides, mutual funds, real estates, stocks, treasury bills, bonds, fixed deposits and life insurance policies are the investment products available workers at GPHA, Takoradi often engage in. Of these, insurance policy is the commonest product workers employ. The main factors influencing investment decisions of workers of GPHA are safety, risk and returns, liquidity, and diversification factors. It is therefore recommended that the premium of clients who invest in any investment product should continue to be protected by the investment companies. Also, the Central Bank of Ghana should come out with clear measures to protect the premium of investors. Again, the Management of GPHA should organize periodic sensitization and public education programs for all its employees on investment decisions in order to increase the level of knowledge of staff members of organization in terms of investment.

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