

THE ROLE OF SUPPLY CHAIN TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCUREMENT PROCESS AT EGERTON UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

The increasing complexity of products and process coupled with high performance place unprecedented challenges and opportunities on the development of organizations. It is important for organizations to ensure customers are fully satisfied by ensuring all the processes are put in place and are easily flowing. This research critically examined the supply chain tools and techniques and how they can be a powerful business improvement methodology for enhancing the effectiveness of procurement process in public universities in Kenya. This was achieved using a case study design approach where Egerton University was used as the case. Data was obtained seeking opinion from sampled procurement staff, and other staff handling procurement at departmental levels. The target population was 174 from which a sample of 121 was selected. Data was collected by administering questionnaires to the sampled respondents. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics which included mean, mode, frequency and percentages. Inferential statistics used included Pearsons correlation to show the relationships between the supply chain tools and performance of procurement in the organization. The major findings of the study were that, although there was a scanty application of the procurement tools studied, that is: six sigma, continuous improvement, just in time procurement, and lean management, there was a positive correlation between the level of application and efficiency levels of procurement. Therefore, these tools played a significant role in enhancing efficiency in procurement. The study therefore recommends that the university should relook into the tools that contribute to the procurement objectives of the organization and design a structured procedure of implementing to the full so as to harness the full benefits of these tools