

**CHALLENGES FACING PROCUREMENT
FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL TEXTILE
TRADERS**

(A case study of Eastleigh Market Textile Traders)

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ABSTRACT

Small scale Textile Traders have got a great influence towards promotion of self employment in the country. The small scale textile trade has managed to absorb a big number of unemployed Kenyan and this had been seen as an effort towards poverty eradication. The main object of the study was to establish challenges facing procurement functions amongst local textile traders. Eastleigh market is dominated by many small scale textile traders who will be locally as raw materials for tailoring industry. The challenges explored by the study; purchasing skills, inventory management, transport problems, storage facilities and government regulations. The research study gathered its findings from these challenges which were addressed by the specific objectives of the study.

The study applied a descriptive research design and the target population consisted of one hundred traders operating textile shops in Eastleigh market. These involved the wholesale traders, small scale traders and retail traders. The sample size consisted of eighty traders who were issued with the questionnaires through the use of stratified sampling technique, the data collected was analysed through the use of quantitative and qualitative analysis and presented in form of figures and tables. This contributed towards making summary of findings, answering of the research questions, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

The study found out that most traders lacked effective purchasing skills and this affected their ability in making strategic purchasing decisions. This was found to be contributed by lack of academic qualifications in procurement related field. Many traders were also found to apply poor inventory control management methods and this affected minimization of inventory costs. The study therefore concluded that procurement functions amongst textile traders are mostly affected by purchasing skills and recommended that textile traders should involve themselves in training programmes.