

**FACTORS INFLUENCING CONTRACTING PROCESS IN THE
PUBLIC SECTOR IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF KENYA
NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE**

BY

LUCY KAREA MANENE

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to investigate the factors influencing contracting process in the public sector in Kenya. The specific objectives that guided the study were to establish if supplier relationship, operation costs, management style and quality influence the contracting process in the public sector in Kenya. The scope of the study was The National Youth Service in Nairobi and senior level management, middle level management as well as support staff were interviewed. The study adopted the descriptive research design. The target population was 150 comprising five senior level managers, 26 middle level managers and 119 support staff. A sample of 75 subjects was selected out of which 3 were senior level managers. 13 middle level managers and 59 support staff. Stratified sampling design was used for the study.

The research instrument for collecting data was the questionnaire which had both open-ended and closed ended questions. Data was analyzed using SPSS (version 7) Statistical Package and presented using frequency and percentage tables, bar graphs and pie charts. The study found out that supplier selection costs, management style as well as quality management all affected the contracting process in the public sector in Kenya. The study recommended; that the institution should adhere to ethical standards when dealing with local contractors: the managers should seek funds to sustain their activities other than just donor findings; that bureaucratic leadership in public sector could be eliminated and that quality management should be emphasized. Suggestion for further study was that research should be undertaken that will help to acquire more information on how to improve the contracting process and how gender equality could be attained in the same.