

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCUREMENT
POLICY ON SCHOOL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: A CASE
OF PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ELDORET
SOUTH CONSTITUENCY, KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to assess the implementation of procurement policy on school financial management. The study objectives were to: identify the knowledge and skills possessed by procurement committee members in financial management in public secondary schools in Eldoret South Constituency; find out the levels of awareness of procurement process among procurement committee members in public secondary schools in Eldoret South Constituency; investigate procurement practices in public secondary schools in Eldoret South Constituency and examine the implementation of procurement policy in Public secondary schools in Eldoret South Constituency.

In this study adapted descriptive survey design which was appropriate as it was deemed to provide information on samples that were collected and also discovered the occurrences in the area of study. The researcher targeted 37 secondary schools out of which 11 public secondary schools and 310 respondents were included in the study. Stratified simple random technique and purposive sampling were used to select a sample size of 93 respondents representing 30% of the target population. The instruments of data collection were questionnaire and interview schedule. The purpose of the interview schedules was to solicit for more information from the respondents and to assist the researcher to cross check biases when analyzing data. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics and percentages, which gave ways and means of interpreting data, condense information and presented information in both numerical and graphical terms. The study was based on the New Public Finance Management Theory by Manning (2001), which emphasizes the overall ethos for reforms by allowing managers to manage and making managers accountable. The study found out that committee members have very little knowledge as to what they are supposed to be doing. The members too do not have relevant training in procurement nor even financial management as a whole. Further it was evident that the commitment level of the members was not optimum as some leave this task to engage in farm activities hence have it as a by the way activity. There is also the aspect of bureaucracy in many operations, unnecessary delays, malpractices such as corruption and embezzlement of funds as well as lack of appropriate record keeping. This study concludes that the procurement policy is handled by incompetent drivers. These drivers are most likely not to deliver to the expected output level. This poses a danger in terms of the implementation of the procurement policy. To this, the study recommends a review of the existing committees after which other committees should be reconstituted to suit the minimal requirements.