

AN EVALUATION OF THE CHALLENGES FACING PROCUREMENT
OFFICERS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

(A SURVEY OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN GARISSA TOWN, KENYA)

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study was to establish the challenges facing procurement officers in public institutions. The specific objectives were to establish whether inadequate training, top management, information technology and adherence to professionalism and purchasing ethics are challenges facing procurement officers. This study adopted descriptive research design to elicit data from the target audience. The target population of this study comprised 42 employees from the procurement department in public institutions in Garissa Town. Census sampling technique was used to involve all respondents in the study. Structured questionnaires were used to collect primary data from the respondents. The questionnaires were self administered so as to enhance the response rate. This will help in clarifying unclear issues to the respondents. The questionnaires were collected after two days for analysis. The process of data analysis involved several stages. Completed questionnaires were edited for completeness and consistency. The data was then be coded and checked for any errors and omissions. The data was analyzed by use of descriptive statistics tools that included frequency tables and percentages. Qualitative data was transcribed and organized into similar topics and presented in form of tabular interpretive reports. In summary, the findings of the study were that lack of effective training and development affects effective performance of the purchasing function and that management interference presents a challenge to procurement officers in public institutions. Based on the findings, the study recommends that training be offered to purchasing officers in the use of information technology in the procurement function and Procurement officers to undergo training on the need to uphold professional ethics and the emerging issues in procurement. The study recommends that further study be conducted on challenges in the use of Enterprise Resource Planning in the procurement function.