

**FACTORS AFFECTING MATERIAL HANDLING PLANT  
INSTALLATION PROJECTS IN MANUFACTURING FIRMS.  
(A case study of Mastermind Tobacco Limited-Tobacco Processing Plant)**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to find out factors affecting material handling plant installation projects. The research seeks to find out the effect of training, technology, infrastructure and finance on material handling plant installation projects.

Descriptive research design was adopted with both quantitative and qualitative approaches applied. The target population was 120 staff from Mastermind Tobacco Limited. Stratified sampling technique was used in sampling to obtain a sample of 60 respondents. Data collection was through questionnaires. Data was then analyzed quantitatively using the computer Excel package and also qualitatively.

As per the findings respondents (63%) indicated that technical skills affect MH plant installation projects. MH Plant installation requires qualified personnel like engineers, quantity surveyors, economists, project managers and administrators for the entire project to be undertaken, 83% acknowledged the effect of technology on MH plant installations. Plant construction also relies on special machinery and facilities. 63% acknowledged the effect of capital on plant installation. Business capital is the backbone for success in any business. 90% acknowledged the effect of infrastructure on MH plant installation projects. Infrastructure refers to the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.

It is recommended that MH Plant installation contracts should be awarded to companies with the relevant technical capabilities. Technological forces include gradual improvements in methods in materials in design, in application, diffusion into new industries and efficiency. The firm should focus on an optimal capital structure by ensuring adequate mix of owners' equity and debt equity. Firms should choose locations that maximize their profits and individuals choose locations that maximize their utility.