

Procurement Best Practices
A Comparative Study on the Level of Implementation in Public Secondary Schools in
Uganda and Tanzania

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In the East African region, some member countries like Kenya, have taken actions to extend public procurement principles and practices to the secondary school procurement system. In Uganda and Tanzania however, there is little knowledge on the implementation of PBPs. This study therefore, sought to analyse the level of implementation of procurement best practices in public secondary schools in Uganda and Tanzania, looking at Mbarara and Moshi Municipalities respectively as the case studies. In so doing, the study sought to determine the level of awareness of PBPs among the purchasing staff in the secondary schools, to assess the level of staff competency exhibited by the purchasing personnel, to find out the extent of use of ICT in conducting various schools' procurement needs, and to find out the extent to which procurement ethics are exhibited by the purchasing staff in conducting the various procurement activities. The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive design. The study population comprised of all the public secondary schools in both municipalities, which in total were 30. A census sampling method was used, where a total of 30 questionnaires were distributed to the key respondents of each school. The questionnaires were both closed and open ended, and face to face interviews were conducted with each of the respondents to get clear views. Data was analysed quantitatively and qualitatively and presented descriptively and illustrated by use of tables. The study findings indicated that in Moshi municipality, PBPs were implemented on low level while in Mbarara municipality they were implemented on a relatively moderate level compared to Moshi. From the study findings, one can conclude that Tanzania has a lot of concepts to adopt from its neighbouring countries if it is to realise its directive of implementing procurement practices in public secondary schools and also be able to realise value for money.