

ABSTRACT

Procurement management is an important organizational function. In Kenyan public secondary schools this responsibility is vested on tender committees. In 2009 Public Procurement Oversight Authority (PPOA) undertook a study to find out effective implementation of procurement policy in Thika level 5 Hospital, Kilimambogo Teachers Training College and Kenya Polytechnic. The findings indicated that tender committees were in place but there was poor adherence to procurement guidelines and challenges faced included political interference, poor record keeping and solicitation of bribes. In Siaya Sub-County cases of poor procurement management were on the increase which included principals supplying their own schools, quorums not being adhered to in tender committees, supplies being awarded to the highest bidders and court cases related to procurements. These were blamed on poor procurement management by tender committees DEO (2013). The purpose of this study was to assess the effective implementation of procurement policy and challenges in Siaya Sub-County. Objectives of the study were to; determine whether tender committees were constituted according to the policy, establish the extent to which they adhered to procurement guidelines and establish challenges they faced. The study was guided by a conceptual framework with the proper constitution and adherence as the independent variable and policy outcome as dependent variables. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study population consisted of 21 Principals, 21 Deputy –Principals, 21 Bursars or Account clerks and 3 Sub-County Auditors. Through saturated sampling 18 Principal's, 18 Deputy- Principal's, 18 Bursars or Accounts and 3 Auditors were selected for the study. The instruments for data collection were questionnaires, interview schedules and document analysis guide. Face and content validity of instruments were enhanced by experts in educational administration. Reliability of instruments were determined by piloting them in 3 (10%) schools forming part of the population, the outcome was subjected to Pearson r whereby correlation coefficient of 0.7 and above at a set p- value of 0.05 was considered reliable. Reliability coefficient for the principal's instruments was 0.84, while the deputy-principal's was 0.78. Qualitative data obtained from the research were transcribed and categorized into themes and sub themes. Quantitative data from questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics in form of frequency counts, means and percentages. The study established that 15(83.3%) schools had properly constituted tender committees, all 18(100%) did not adhere to procurement guidelines and all 18(100%) were facing challenges. The study is significant as its findings are useful to education stakeholders in understanding operations and challenges faced by tender committees in public secondary schools in Siaya Sub-County. The study concludes that tender committees are in place but are not adhering to procurement guidelines because of several challenges. This study recommends intensification of school audits and inspections and capacity building to education stakeholders to help improve adherence to procurement guidelines and minimize challenges in Siaya Sub-County.