

# Review of: "Procurement Planning & the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC)"

Javaid Iqbal

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

I enthusiastically recommend the acceptance and publication of the manuscript.

I appreciate the overall work; very little novel contribution is present in this area. **Contextual Relevance:** The study's focus on the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) provides a unique and context-specific examination of the impact of procurement planning on the performance of a public institution. The choice of RBC, given its mandate in the health sector, adds a specific and critical dimension to the research, as effective procurement in such an institution is directly linked to public health outcomes.

**Case Illustration Approach:** The utilization of a case study approach, particularly one involving a real and identifiable institution like the RBC, contributes to the uniqueness of the research. This method allows for an in-depth analysis of the procurement planning challenges faced by the RBC, offering practical insights that can be applied in similar contexts.

**Multifaceted Objectives:** The study's four main objectives, covering needs assessment, procurement cost estimation, quality specification of goods, and strategies for addressing challenges, demonstrate a comprehensive approach. This multifaceted examination adds depth to the study, providing a holistic understanding of how procurement planning influences the performance of public institutions.

**Integration of Audit and Media Reports:** The inclusion of findings from the Auditor General's report and media sources, such as the New Times, adds a layer of credibility and external validation to the research. By incorporating these external perspectives, the study not only relies on internal data but also considers the wider public and official discourse on RBC's performance.

Recommendations and Suggestions:

**Enhanced Needs Assessment Practices:** The study could recommend the implementation of robust needs assessment procedures at RBC to ensure that procurement planning aligns with the actual requirements of the institution. This could involve periodic reviews and consultations with relevant stakeholders.

**Improved Procurement Cost Estimation:** Suggestions might include the establishment of more accurate and transparent methods for cost estimation in the procurement process. This could involve regular training for procurement officers and the use of benchmarking against industry standards.

**Stringent Quality Specification Guidelines:** The research could recommend the development and enforcement of clear

and stringent guidelines for quality specifications of goods procured by RBC. This could involve collaboration with regulatory bodies and industry experts to set and maintain high standards.

**Strategic Procurement Planning Training:** Given the challenges identified, recommending ongoing training programs for RBC staff involved in procurement planning can be crucial. This could include workshops, seminars, or certification programs to enhance their skills and keep them updated on best practices.

**Implementation of Procurement Monitoring Mechanisms:** To address challenges in procurement planning practices, the study could propose the establishment of monitoring mechanisms within RBC. Regular internal audits, third-party evaluations, and feedback mechanisms can help identify and rectify issues promptly.

Acceptance for Publication:

In conclusion, considering the study's contextual relevance, case illustration approach, multifaceted objectives, and integration of external sources, it is recommended that this research be accepted for publication. The findings and recommendations hold significance not only for RBC but also for similar public institutions facing procurement challenges. The comprehensive approach and practical insights make it a valuable contribution to the existing body of knowledge in the field of procurement management and public administration.