

# Review of: "Mediating Role of Outsourcing on The Relationship Between Lean Manufacturing Practices and Profitability"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Introduction

**Comment:** Introduce your variables to the readers in brief, such as outsourcing, lean manufacturing, and profitability, and tell them the reason(s) why they need to be investigated. This will represent your statement of the problem.

## Literature Review

**Question:** Accordingly, manufacturing firms are adopting this strategy for cost cost-saving motives to enhance profitability (Holcomb and Hitt, 2007).

**Comment:** What do you mean by cost cost-saving motives?

## Methodology

**Question:** According to Uganda Manufacturers Association's membership report

2011/2012, there are 150 both large and small medium enterprises (SMEs) manufacturing firms across Uganda of which, there are 83 and 17 firms in Kampala and Jinja respectively totaling 100 firms from which the sample was drawn.

**Comment:** According to the above statement, 100 manufacturing firms is enough to be your sample size otherwise known as sample statistics. Therefore, you don't have to use any sampling methods.

**Question:** Stratified random sampling was employed by grouping the manufacturing firms into strata (Large and SMEs).

**Comment:** You can only use this if you are focusing only on the particular segments of your study population, e.g., large, small, and medium firms. In your own case, there is no place where you've stated this or differentiated between large, small, and medium-sized manufacturing companies.

**Question:** Purposive sampling was employed in the operational stratum of firms by selecting two respondents from each firm in terms of supervisory and administrative roles.

**Comment:** You need to know the difference between unit of analysis and respondent; usually, in quantitative or cross-sectional research techniques, the two are always present and the formal determines the later. For example, in your study, the manufacturing company is your unit of analysis, and people from supervisory and administrative departments

are the respondents to the questionnaires. Therefore, you don't need to employ any sample size to determine this, but you can determine or calculate your response rate.

**Question:** A sampling frame was generated by arranging manufacturing firms and assigning serial numbers from 001 to 100. Subsequently, a random number generator in Excel was utilized to select the sample.

**Comment:** According to the above statement, 100 manufacturing firms is enough to be your sample size, or you can term it sample statistics. Therefore, you don't have to use any sampling methods.

**Question:** Previously used measurement indicators were adopted and modified to match with current study upon which the questionnaire was developed.

**Comment:** You need to provide a reference to the study(s) from which you adopted your measurement tool. This will add to the credibility of your study.

**Question:** Preliminary analysis to determine sample characteristics, reliability and validity was performed in SPSS while the mediation effect was tested using the Med-Graph Excel programme based on Sobel tests following a partial mediation approach.

**Comment:** Partial mediation approach is not a correct statement here; it is your mediation analysis result that will tell you whether it is partial or full mediation. It is advisable for researchers to use the correct words to avoid confusion.