Assessment of Materials Management in Kenyan Manufacturing Firms

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Abstract

This study examined the recognition Kenyan manufacturing firms are giving to materials management and the benefits of adopting good materials management practices since long-term success and survival of any firm depends on how well their costs are managed. The study surveyed medium and large manufacturing firms based in Nairobi, Kenya. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select 55 firms while the data was collected using a structured questionnaire consisting mainly of both close-ended and open-ended questions. The data was analysed through descriptive statistics such as proportions, percentages, median and mean. 23 percent of the firms were found to recognize materials management as they had an in-charge reporting directly to the chief executive officer. However, generally Kenyan firms were not practicing professionalism in materials management and owing to the huge amount of resources they were committing on materials related activities; a lot of emphasis need to be directed towards materials management and it should be recognized as a top management function.