



An Assessment of Procurement Capacity of Education Sector in Sri Lanka.

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Abstract

A sound system of public procurement plays a pivotal role ensuring the utilization of public resources efficiently and effectively with integrity in a transparent manner guaranteeing Best Value for Money (BVfM) with best quality, reassuring public accountability. As such, impact of a sound procurement systems and procedures are interconnected with the objectives of education sector to enhance economic efficiency and equity of resource allocation and strengthening governance and institutional capacity of the sector.

The present study assesses the impact that current government systems and frameworks have on procurement of school education sector, reviews the management support rendered by all relevant institutions for the implementation of procurement procedure and provides solutions to improve the current framework, where gaps exist, and enabling introduction of necessary remedies. The survey was based on a literature survey, field visits, a key informant survey and open discussions.

Sector procurement is implemented within overall public procurement framework, and required to strengthen the accountability by enactment of a procurement law. Inadequate capacities and absence of procurement management system at provincial level are perplexing the gain of objectives of public procurement and hinder achieving of educational objectives, mandating further decentralization of procurement function to ensure capacity building and ownership. As procurement cycle management is a recognized function in support of educational quality improvement, market responsiveness, increased provision for consultancy procurement, improvement of fund channeling mechanism, better procurement monitoring system and aligning allocation decisions with provincial and school educational priorities are salient issues that require remedies.

Key words -public procurement, public expenditure management, public procurement environment in education sector, procurement capacity, procurement cycle management, procurement regulatory framework