

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

FACULTY OF COMMERCE



**AN ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
A CASE OF RURAL SUPPLY CHAINS IN CHIVHU, ZIMBABWE**

BY

BLESSED CHAKANYUKA

B193374B

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
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NAME OF STUDENT: Chakanyuka Blessed

DESSERTATION TITLE : An analysis of sustainable procurement in rural development: A case of rural supply chains in Chivhu, Zimbabwe

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Student..... Date.....

Supervisor..... Date.....

Head of Department..... Date.....

Program Coordinator/Chairman..... Date.....

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, Mr and Mrs Chakanyuka

ABSTRACT

The main goal of the study was to assess the role of sustainable procurement in rural areas, a case of supply chains in Chivhu, Zimbabwe. Research was guided by the following objectives: assessing the impact of economic sustainable procurement on rural development, determining how social issues on sustainable procurement affect rural development and analysing how environmental issues affect rural development in procurement. A descriptive case study research was used. A population of eighty (80) from different companies and a sample size of sixteen (16) respondents were picked. Data was collected through questionnaire and interview schedule. The researcher used IBM SPSS statistics 20 and Excel to analyse data. Findings towards the role of sustainable procurement in rural development indicated that business organizations established in Chivhu consider the role of sustainable procurement but not as much as the level expected. In all aspects of sustainable procurement there are certain areas they put more focus and certain areas they put less focus. The findings revealed that organizations put more focus on procurement of human and core labour standards for rural development to ensure health and safety values of employees required by trade unions and other labour organizations. However, procurement activities are not fair and ethical to achieve sustainability due to corruption, bribes and kickbacks from suppliers and lack of transparent and auditing procedures. The researcher recommends that business organization in Chivhu rural area should put their commitment on procurement activities by having policy statements that explore in various conditions to trade in as fair and ethical in a good manner as possible so as to help deliver social sustainability for rural development. The study also recommends that all procurement departments of all business organizations involved in Chivhu rural area should meet and integrate to sign agreements of mutual understanding on sustainable procurement practices that bring rural development. As a result, this research is by no means comprehensive, there is a need to carry out other researches regarding the role of sustainable procurement in urban and town development. Other researchers should use different case studies to conduct a kind of research.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Sustainable procurement has increasingly become a cause for concern due to pressure from the government to protect the environment as well as social life. Sustainable procurement involves taking into account the social, environmental, and economic factors when making purchasing decisions. It involves the procurement making decisions based on evaluating the costs from manufacturing processes up to stage where the product is being used by the end user and the risk that are incurred. Sustainable procurement may lead to better living standards, lead to equal distribution of resources and leads to human rights and contribution to economic development. Generally sustainable procurement mainly focuses on the three dimensions which are economic, social and environment. This research aim to analyse the role of sustainable procurement in developing rural areas. For example, the issue of eliminating gender disparity and the empowerment of women especially in rural societies.

1.1 Background of the study

There is pressure for Sustainable procurement to be taken into account as a result of the UN conference which comes up with sustainable goals. The reason for sustainability is to protect the environment, the society and increasing economic growth. According to the Austrian Sustainable Procurement Guide (2018), SDGs which arise at a conference is putting more pressure for the adoption of sustainable development, the actual purpose being to create an equilibrium between social, economic and environmental factors. Furthermore, nations were designated to contribute their efforts towards the attainment of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by the end of the year 2030. As a result, the UN is exerting increasing pressure to fulfil these sustainable development goals. Due to the rising necessity of development in sustainability regarding the entire globe, the notion of sustainable buying has fast gained traction (Mcharry and Defra, 2006).

According to (Johnson, Howard and Miemczyk, 2014), taking into consideration the implications of sustainable procurement plays a part in sales growth, improving social benefits, and thriving to efficiency. Procurement decisions on all purchases should seek to maximise societal benefit and match what the community needs as well guarding against environmental damage (Pheasey, 2016). Procurement departments are so charged since they may influence purchasing efficiency and brand image by engaging in sustainable practices such as product definition, supplier sourcing, assessment, and supplier selection (CIPS 2013).

For infrastructure projects, most governments also develop grievance and dispute resolution systems. For example, in 2010, India established a National Green Tribunal with the purpose to examine environmental protection claims and resolve environmental disputes. The IFC and the World Bank have created the Office of the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman to act as an impartial recourse mechanism for projects sponsored by these institutions. It is believed that developed countries introduced policies in a way of trying to achieve sustainability through procurement activities in the two sectors of the economy (Walker, Miemczyk, Johnson and Spenser, 2012). (Pheasey, 2016) proposed that Companies are not operating efficiently considering what is expected especially in public entities as well as countries that are not able to achieve sustainable development goals in Africa. Chari and Chiriseri (2014) argued on the issue that in Zimbabwe the issue of sustainability has been addressed by different groups issues like poverty, human labour and managing the environment. The PPDPA Act has put emphasis on sustainability thereby considering social factors, economic factor and environment. Since private entities are not required to follow governmental procurement requirements, they are required to support proper use of resources and managing environmental issues through paying back to the society (CSR). The OECD (2011) scholars and general practitioner have been progressively more interested in how corporations and their vendors influence the economy, society and the environment in recent years. (Lambrechts, 2021) added that this has been necessitated by the need for companies to meet the terms of environmental regulations, reduce expenses through analysing the all stages of a product up to its disposal, manage risks along the channel of distribution, and maintain a respectable image in the operating environment. This motivated the researcher to investigate and analyse the role of sustainable procurement in rural development.

The Government of Zimbabwe is executing projects to improving rural development at national level. The aim is to improve sanitation, maintain a good environment, improve education and transportation. Sustainable procurement can be used to address social concerns which include

poverty, unemployment, equality, standards of living and health. The challenges faced by the rural communities shows that the Government need to put measures to achieve long term progress. For example, poor road networks affects the distribution of goods and services. According to CIPS (2002), sustainability involves a process of considering the social way of life, the environment which a business operates and the how it impacted to the whole economy. This is done for the benefit of both the organisation and the society. Climate change, rising poverty, natural resource depletion and threats to biodiversity are all causing havoc in communities across the country. Food insecurity and malnutrition are common and there is limited to access to productive agricultural support services development (Stobbe, 2008). In addition, sustainable procurement maybe also used to address social concerns including skill development, unemployment, poverty, diversity, health and wellbeing. According to CIPS (2012), the role of purchasing in in any organisation is becoming more important in terms of organisational growth and good performance. Business practice must demonstrate that organisations are put more effort to reduce carbon footprint in their supply chain.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Procurement entities have shown that they are failing to manage environmental, social and economic risk while procuring goods and services which is crucial in rural development. Rural residents have less access to health and education which creates inequality (Ellington 2004). Different projects have been put forward to improve the living standards of rural communities like solar projects, Presidential schemes and youth empowerment. In addition, the continuing loss of forest has resulted in climate change. In this case, the Environment Management Agency tries to ensure and monitor the conservation of resources and the protection of the surroundings in reducing pollution and environmental degradation. This research is done to explore the role of managing environment issues in rural development.

1.3 Research objectives

- i. To establish the relationship between sustainable procurement and rural development.
- ii. To determine the role of the Government implementing sustainable goals.
- iii. To find out the challenges faced when implementing sustainable procurement.
- iv. To find out the solutions to challenges being faced when implementing sustainable procurement.

1.4 Research questions

- i. What is the relationship between sustainable procurement and rural development?
- ii. What is the role of the Government implementing sustainable goals?
- iii. What are the challenges faced when implementing sustainable procurement.
- iv. What are the solutions to challenges being faced when implementing sustainable procurement?

1.5 Assumptions

- The researcher assumed that the target population already has a background of sustainability.
- The sample will be an accurate representation of the whole population.
- The researcher assumed that the resources are ever changing.
- The researcher assumed that economy is stable.

1.6 Justification /significance of the study

The research is important to the community and Bindura University of Science Education and other beneficiaries.

To the Researcher

The research is of great importance to the researcher because it gives knowledge for academic purpose. It helps the researcher to gain experience in research techniques and to acquire deep knowledge on how sustainable procurement can affect rural development.

Academicians

Other students will benefit from this study as it guide them to bring new ideas.

To Bindura University of Science Education

The research project is important to the Bindura University library where it can be used by other students as a guideline when carrying out their projects.

To the Public

This project will be of great importance to the public because it helps to raise awareness on how sustainable procurement can improve rural communities. It can also help the society by providing knowledge on how to maintain a clean environment.

To the Government

This research helps the government to implement policies that will help to maintain an equilibrium between the present generation and the future generation in rural areas and also to assist companies to bring sustainability in areas they operate

To Chivhu Rural district companies

This research will help Chivhu Rural district companies both private and public organisations to acquire knowledge on how to improve the purchasing process that brings change on rural development.

1.7 Scope of the study

This project covers rural supply chains in Chivhu, Zimbabwe. The project examines the importance of sustainable procurement on improving rural life. The research uses theories like triple bottom line theory. The theory states that businesses should not only focus on profits but also take into consideration the social needs and economic needs (Johnson and Miemczyk 2014). The triple bottom line theory encompasses that companies should focus more on social and environment as they do on profits. It seeks to measure what a company can contribute to the society, economy and environment as well. Companies should contribute to the community by being socially responsible. In this case a company must act in a way that benefits the society for example giving scholarships, building hospitals and develop better infrastructure. Companies should adopt policies that promote the society and environment they operate in (Pain and Hansen). Furthermore, CSR can attract investment to shareholders who want to invest in well established firms. In addition, this project try to figure out ways that can be used in rural supply chains to reduce waste and energy efficiency measures that can be used when procuring goods and services. Green procurement allows entities to be concerned more about the environmental impact of its purchasing decisions. This will eliminate rural-urban differences and make a better place for people in rural areas.

1.8 Limitations

Research limitations are the weakness of the study or the barriers to effective research that is financial constraints, time management, inaccessibility to information and lack of skills.

Financial constraints

The researcher failed to reach some companies because of lack of financial resources. The researcher find an alternative way of solving the challenge by using online web sites to acquire necessary data.

Time management

This research was conducted during the semester hence faced a lot of pressure to balance the research as well as daily involved in attending face to face lectures and writing assignments.

Inaccessibility to information

Some companies were not able to provide information which was need because of confidentiality issues. They were not allowed to disclose information to third parties because they assume that the researcher has been sent by competitors. However, the researcher assured that the required information was needed for educational purposes.

1.10 Definition of key terms

Sustainable procurement

Sustainable procurement is a process whereby all activities to acquire goods and services are put in place considering the harm that may be posed to the environment, what it contributes to the whole economy and how it benefits the society as well as making sure that the stakeholders requirements are met.

Rural development

Rural development is a process whereby all activities are done to improve the social conditions as well as environmental conditions. Rural development also involves changing the way of life of rural people.

Supply chain

Supply chain involves a network or a chain of activities from product manufacturing up to the stage where it is used by the end user. The supply chain involves the channel of distribution where it starts from distributing goods and services from the supplier to the consumers.

Corporate Social responsibility

CSR is a tool that is used to help organisations to contribute to their communities they operate in and taking into account all stakeholders. By practising corporate social responsibility it

means a business is now taking into account the three aspects of sustainability which social, economic and environment.

1.11 Chapter summary

The main focus in this chapter was to focus on the role of sustainable in rural development. It also covers the introduction, statement of the problem and research objectives. The chapter therefore lays the foundation of the research on how important procuring sustainably can aid in rural development.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

1.0 Introduction

This chapter explains other findings on the role of sustainable procurement in rural development. It focuses on viewpoints and arguments presented by other various researchers and assess the gaps in the field of the research. This chapter also focuses on theoretical framework, conceptual framework, study justification, empirical evidence and chapter summary.

2.1 Theoretical framework

This section explains theories regarding sustainable development in rural development. According to Creswell (2009), a theoretical framework is defined as the collection of connected concepts that guides a research projects and allows the reader to have access to current information.

2.1.0 Sustainable Procurement concept

Carter and Rogers (2008) stated that sustainable procurement is a process which involves procuring goods, semi-finished products and components in a way that minimise harmful impact to the environment, cost reduction, and reducing waste to achieve a competitive edge. Sustainability is a process of developing form where we are to the state of the capacity to continue indefinitely. It also focuses on ensuring the best practice by this present generation as well as conserving resources for future needs. Sustainable procurement involves looking beyond economic parameters, reducing harm to the society, poverty eradication, complying with environmental standards and the distribution of resources (Walker and Brammer 2012). Elkington (1994). Sustainable procurement is composed of the triple bottom line pillars which

are economic, social and environment and these pillars relate to each other (Markley and Davis 2007).

2.1.1 Triple bottom Line Theory

The theory of triple bottom line was established by John Elkington in 1998. John Elkington (1998) argued that organisations should plan for the three dimensions which are economic, social and environment. The TBL is a theory which states that companies should seek to maximise its motive of making profit but however it should also take into account the environment in which it is operating and the community (Elkington 1998). In addition business organisations are held accountable for anything that happens during the production or during service delivery (Lee and Klassen, 2008). Social or environment misconduct at any stage can cause reputational harm to the firm's brand. The pillars of sustainability are formed by the three aspects of the Triple bottom line

2.1.2 Environment

Environmental issues on sustainable procurement affects the utilisation of resources, the issue of carbon footprints, greenhouse gases and carbon emissions. This aspect focuses on encouraging firms to achieve environmental consideration through green procurement in all different stages of procurement right from acquisitions to disposal (Brammer 2012). Green purchasing includes practices like producing products which are recyclable, products that uses less energy, use bio degradable materials and substances that do not pose harm to the environment to create a better place for the nation (Carter and Easton 2011). The study by Lemmet (2012) indicated a wide range of environmental implications at different stages of a product's life cycle. The French Ministry of Education has reduced waste caused during the production process by purchasing refurbished ink cartridges. DNV GL (2015) postulated that sustainable procurement practices necessitate the proper procurement plan to align with laws and better practices, such as complying certain standards, such as environmental, social, health, and safety policies. Second, by incorporating proper sustainability criteria into procurement practices, it is also possible to reduce environmental effect while increasing economic and social benefits. It also involves giving all stakeholders knowledge, rules that lead to the best practices in the whole supply chain. That is, putting in place sustainability in all phases of procurement by including environmental, social, and economic considerations in the procurement of products and services. There is need for collaboration with different companies

and conducting market research to have knowledge. Clients judge traditional companies based on the quality of their goods and services and how they offer solutions to customers as it was proposed by (Bucea-Manea-tonis et al. 2021). Nonetheless, environmental ethics are often used to assess and critique businesses.

2.1.3 Social

According to Ellington (1998), social aspects involves the activities by the main actors which are the suppliers, customers, employees and the society as a whole. Ellington argued that entities should operate in a way that contribute to the achievement of social welfare. Entities are expected to contribute to the society through corporate social responsibility by giving back to the society (Connelly and Ketchen 2011). However, the top management can face difficulties when trying to maintain an equilibrium between the interest of shareholders and what they expect (Pagell 2009). Delmas and Pekovic (2013) indicated that there was evidence to show that social interactions in organisations affects organisational outcomes. (Flora, 2009) also added that it facilitates cooperation and boost confidence as well as community participation and which creates a strong civil society. Much of the work on social sustainability focuses on providing services that will help to establish conditions that will lead to a more sustainable community. When it comes to procurement, this is of limited use. We would define 'social sustainability,' based on this and other publications, as being one of the larger process of sustainable development as it was argued by (Stobbe, 2008). The five principles were based on protecting the poor, reducing inequality, upgrading health sector and bringing long term benefits to the community.

2.1.4 Economic aspect

Economic sustainability mainly focuses on reducing waste, production and making profit. Public procurement can help to fulfil objectives by the government such generating new ideas, support environment using public funds and economic objectives for supporting domestic markets. Gordon (2009) indicated that economic development goals are gradually becoming as part of procurement. Scholars discussed the importance of purchasing as a tool for improving the economy and leads to formulation of new ideas as it was stated by (Treviño-Lozano, 2021). The economic emergency has come to utilize procurement to invigorate the local economy that might be an attractive move to chase and achieve external goals (Johnsen, Howard and Miemczyk, 2014)

2.2. Institutional theory

Institutional theory put emphasis on social values, beliefs and norms by which an organisation applies to its structure, its plans and what it expects to achieve (David Bitektine 2009). Bansal and Clellan

(2004) and Hoffman (1999) argued that Institutional theory has been used to describe the firm's response in increasing the requirements for environmental management since 1930. Public awareness on failure by entities and environmental concerns, this theory suggests that businesses can only earn legitimacy by reducing their harm and being socially accountable. Bansal (2005) added that firms have adopted sustainable procurement strategies as a way of avoiding institutional pressure. Business can also collaborate with the end user and suppliers to enhance their environmental performance by exchanging knowledge; making

According to Meyer and Rowan (2006) innovative structures are legitimized to boost organizational efficiency. Eventually, these ideas gain enough legitimacy that failing to accept them is seen as being careless. This means that institutional theory allows business to maintain legitimacy by using structure vocabularies such as job titles, procedures, and functions (Johnsen, Howard and Miemczyk, 2014).

2.3 Sustainable development theory

Sustainable development as a stage of advancement that meet people's needs in a way that do not affect the future generations' capability to fulfil their own needs. The relevance of future generation is emphasized in this notion of sustainability (WCDE 1987). The emphasis on future impacts encourages careful planning, resource utilization, and reducing carbon footprint.

However, sustainability is not only focused on green purchasing but it also put its focus on social as what Elkington (2004) suggested. Elkington (2004) also stated that there is need to maintain balance between economic, social, and environmental factors.

2.4 Sustainable Procurement and Rural Development

Sustainable procurement involves buying from the right suppliers, buying the right product and buying products that do not cause harm to the people as well as the environment. Sustainable procurement also includes buying according to specifications from user departments with the aim of protecting the environment, reducing poverty, reducing child labour and to make sure that there is equal distribution of resources. There is still a gap between the rural way of living

and the way urban life. The government is trying to remove the gap through youth empowerment programmes, providing grants and rural electrification. Sustainable procurement aims to develop the rural domain through preserve natural, landscape and cultural resources. Rural development referred to a process that aims to upgrade the way of living in rural areas. The main reason is to improve quality of life of people living in rural areas and protect the environment. Sustainable procurement can lead to improved social welfare, minimise the urban-rural gap and reduce poverty. In addition, there is need to protect and preserve natural and ensuring a continuous supply of food through sustainable farming.

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) ensure supply of food for the present as well as future, creates job opportunities, reduce poverty, increasing productivity and conserving natural resources. However this study defines rural development as the process of improving the way people live in rural areas and achieving a better environment by addressing problems faced by certain communities in different parts of the country (UN DESA, 2021).

2.4.1 The structure of metrics of rural development

(Pain and Hansen, 2019) articulated that Rural Development Guide is made up of more than five dimensions that are all linked to people's quality of life in rural areas. Economy, health, education, environment (both residential and natural), and culture leisure are the domains. The outcome index is a set of indicators designed to examine and assess the state of development in rural areas.

2.4.2 The Agricultural Domain

The Economy Result Index is made up of factors which are used to calculate rural residents' income levels. Each household has to separate its income into farm produce and that which is not from farming depending on the type of the rural area. The average yearly farm revenue is used to determine the level of agricultural income. Pain and Hansen (2019) proved that the Economy Cause Index is made up of variables that show factors that have a direct impact on income. Agricultural output, agricultural distribution, and agricultural infrastructure are all factors that influence farm revenue. Farm revenue has a positive relationship to output, when production output raises, farm income also rises. It is also easier for farmers to share information about agricultural produce prices from the Grain Marketing Board and transportation circumstances for agricultural product delivery to distributors are improved. JICA (1996) states that there is need for standards to measure the level of change in agricultural infrastructure such as canals, pumping stations, and how good the type of roads are.

2.4.3 The health and welfare Domain

UNECE (2007) suggested that Health and Welfare Cause Index is made up of signs that are linked to points that have a beneficial effect on one's health and fitness. The Health and Welfare Cause Index considers the state of medicines and health facilities available to rural inhabitants, as well as the number of medical personnel providing health care. The state of one's health or overall well-being is linked to the state of health facilities. Kirton (2013) added that the number of people in wards per 1,000 persons is used to measure the medical facility condition. Through favorable effects on health and welfare, a growth in the number of pharmacists, and doctors enhances the health of individuals.

2.4.4 The Education Domain

The Education domain is made up of metrics that relate to different factors that have a beneficial impact on rural populations' educational levels. It is based on the number of premises available and educational staff. When educational facilities are enhanced, the educational level of rural populations improves. The number of students in each class in primary and secondary schools is used to gauge the state of educational facilities. When the number of teachers in rural areas is raised, the educational level of the population improves. Teachers' availability is measured by the number of students in both primary schools and secondary (Pain and Hansen, 2019).

2.5 Environmental issues affecting rural development

Bansal (2005) stated that resources need to be managed, conserving water bodies and soil. Elkington proposed that the societies need to be educated on how to keep the environment clean and safe from any harm. According to Hoffman (1999), societies lack resources to take action against environmental damage.

Poor rural residents must not have their incomes or resources temporarily reduced in order for them to actively participate. Projects for rural development must ensure environmental protection while taking into account the interests of various groups of rural residents, such as farmers, herders, or wood cutters. In the past two decades, significant progress has been made in both our understanding of how pasture and crop ecosystems function and in the creation of strategies to minimize harm to them. Lyson and Farrington (2006) suggested that in order to prioritize issues and reach an agreement among all those impacted, a significant effort is now required to comprehend the economic, social, and cultural functions of traditions and practices of various social groups engaged in agricultural development and territorial management

According to Morgan (2008), different research bodies should coordinate their projects to prevent duplication of effort and poor nations should have access to innovative methodologies as a result of research carried out by wealthy countries. If reforestation, water conservation, and other initiatives are to be successful, local populations must be involved at every level, from initial design to execution. The infrastructure and tools used in these endeavours should be able to be maintained by the local inhabitants themselves. It is also necessary to develop better environmental protection methods at the micro level of specific farms and pastures.

The function of national governments must be envisioned so that they can support local action without forcibly imposing policies from above. In their analysis of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, Goodland and Wiley (2002) defined "Social sustainability" as the preservation of social capital. Social capital is the term used to describe the investments and services that support society

2.6 The role of the government in implementing sustainable procurement

The government's responsibility, according to Chari and Chiriseri (2014), is to influence public purchasing through policies that are supportive of sustainable procurement. According to Defra (2006), firms should use sustainable procurement policies to help them decide when to buy goods and services and to help them choose those products based on their social and environmental impacts. It can apply to both internal business operations and the production of the company's own products and services. Sustainable procurement regulations must be set by the government. According to Defra (2006), a lack of government policies can prevent businesses from becoming sustainable.

2.7 Challenges faced when implementing sustainable procurement

2.7.1 Perceived Costs

According to Blair and Wrigh (2012), consumers frequently believe that sustainable products are expensive that is increase costs. To shift these behaviours to favour environmentally friendly items, it will be important to provide information and tools (Sternner, 2002). Selecting suppliers that meet the standards tend to take time and buying products that can be reused,

recycled and which are biodegradable also tend to be expensive hence consumers do not consider sustainable procurement because of the costs.

2.7.2 Lack of top management support

For sustainable procurement to take place effectively, there is need for the senior management to support it or to be committed as cited by Blair and Wrigh (2012). Sustainable procurement Senior management support is also important. According to the Sustainable Procurement Task Force (Defra, 2006), high management has not given clear instructions on how to prioritize achieving sustainable development goals through procurement. Lack of top management support means that sustainable procurement will not be achieved.

2.7.3 Structural and organisational change

According to Uyarra (2010), the purchasing function generally has a lesser status than other functional domains. According to Morgan (2008), senior management and political leaders generally lack commitment to and ownership over procurement policies, which affects sustainable procurement. The structure of an organisation affects procurement decisions that is a tall hierarchical structure means more delays in decisions since there is need to consult more people who are in authority.

2.7.4 Knowledge and capacity

An additional obstacle to acquiring innovative solutions is seen at individual level, where a mismatch between the capabilities of procurers and the expertise need to acquire new solutions. According to Rothwell and Zegveld (1981), while just a small amount of internal expertise is required when buying products at the lowest cost, more expertise is needed to motivate suppliers to develop. Additionally, Cousins et al. (2006) discovered that knowledgeable and highly skilled buyers had a considerable impact on performance in terms of lead time reduction and quality improvement. There is need for training so that workers will have knowledge and experience.

2.7.5 Availability of sustainable suppliers

There is lack of suppliers that meet standards, producing products that meet expectations and producing products that do not pose any harm to the society. Another obstacle to sustainable

buying is a lack of vendors of sustainable goods or services. Some ecologically friendly products are harder to get, might not perform to expectations, or might not be as affordable. Through increased efficiency or advantageous life-cycle costs, these products frequently beat their less-green equivalents (Sterner, 2002).

2.8 Empirical evidence

2.8.1 Case study 1: Young, Nagpal and Adams, (2015): factors affecting the adoption of sustainable procurement methods.

As need to know the factors influencing the adoption of sustainable procurement practices in Australian and British institutions, research was conducted. In making decisions on sustainable buying, UK universities frequently take institutional stakeholders' and students' concerns into consideration, but in Australia, the implementation of sustainable procurement is limited by a lack of funding. The report lists several examples of sustainable purchases made by colleges, including food, stationery, garbage, transportation, and recycled paper.

2.8.2 Case study 2: McCrudden (2004): The role of public procurement in achieving social goals.

The study's conclusions demonstrated that many EU sustainable procurement laws place a greater emphasis on environmental concerns than on social ones. For instance, public procurement laws for wood and paper products exist in Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Italy, where 30% of the items bought by the government must adhere to environmental standards. In Belgium, government vehicles must adhere to strict environmental requirements in 50% of cases. Incorporating social considerations into public procurement is now required by law in the United Kingdom as a result of a European Union regulation on public spending.

2.8.3 Case study 3: Brammer and Walker (2007): Sustainable procurement in the United Kingdom Public Sector.

The UK public sector underwent an investigation into sustainable procurement. The study's findings showed that different public sector organizations have quite different sustainable procurement practices. While the health sector appears to neglect sustainable procurement difficulties and the education is primarily focus with the environment, municipal governments are expected to purchase from small and local enterprises. Cost and a lack of senior management support were also mentioned by the researcher as barriers to long-term buying.

2.8.4 Case study 4: Quayle and Quayle (2000): The role of procurement procedures in sustainable procurement.

They looked at the purchasing practices used by UK higher and further education institutions. Their research was based on the relevance of the interaction between procurement and other activities at their individual institutions, the significance of supplier selection and the emphasis placed on procurement for value improvement. The research found a need for whole life cost management, training for procurement workers, increased purchasing expertise and priority, more precise data, benchmarking, and the significance of buying groups.

2.8.5 Case study 5: Chari and Chiriseri (2014): Barriers to sustainable procurement

They conducted research in Zimbabwe to find out what factors influence the adoption of sustainable procurement. 300 procurement and administrative employees via questionnaires and interviews were conducted. According to the study's conclusions, sustainable procurement techniques are not being used. The survey also discovered that a lack of management support was a barrier to the adoption of sustainable procurement. The lack of understanding of the concept of sustainable procurement is expensive and all contributed to the barriers to sustainable product adoption.

2.8.6 Study 6: Islam and Siwar, (2013): sustainable procurement practices in Australia and Malaysia.

The study looked at the main opportunities and barriers to engaging in sustainable procurement in Australia and Malaysia. It also compared and contrasted current sustainable buying practices in both countries. The study's conclusions suggest strategies that may be used in public sector procurement, however the scope and nature of these strategies vary substantially between the two countries. In Malaysia, diversity is strongly valued, but government organizations in Australia focus more on the safety aspects of sustainable procurement. Australia's public sector is smaller than that of Malaysia. According to the public sector, the biggest barrier to the adoption of sustainable procurement in both countries is financial pressure.

2.9 Summary

Sustainable purchasing is essential for rural development. This chapter examined the literature on sustainable purchasing. It also went through the impact of social, economic, and

environmental factors on rural development. The next chapter is dedicated to research methodology.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The research design, sampling strategy, and steps for gathering and analyzing data are all described in this chapter. Additionally, it covers the research design, study population, sample, sampling techniques, data collection tactics, and a plan for data analysis. Research methodology, as defined by Jankowicz (1995), is the evaluation and justification of the specific method(s) or procedures used in a given study as well as in studies of that kind generally.

3.2 Research design

A research design shows how information was gathered and plan of action. Due to the operations in the same context, the results can be used by other local governments. The researcher chose a descriptive research design because it is simple, authentic, and provides guidance on how to record the study questions.

The researcher used both public and private organizations operating in Chivhu rural area to obtain data like Chivhu rural district council, N Ritchards, the researcher also selected one primary school and GMB Chivhu, Chivhu rural hospital and business shops like N Richards as a case study to gain a better knowledge of the organization's operations. Case studies have the advantage of providing a large quantity of description and detail from a single case, as well as being cost-effective (Saunders et al 2009).

3.3 Population

The term population was defined by Bryman and Bell (2003) as the combined units that is taken from the sample. The targeted population needs to be precise as this shows if sampling is required. The study concentrated on the target population of procurement staff in both public and private business organizations operating in Chivhu Rural Area and local people in that rural area. The population is made up of procurement managers, assistant buyers, unit divisions,

bursars or accountants and other people in the local community. A sample is part of the population under investigation. Because looking at the entire population at all companies in Chivhu rural area was difficult, a sample was taken. The target population is represented in the table below.

Table 3.1: Target Population

Table 1: Target Population

| Business organization | Target population |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Chivhu rural district | 10 |
| Chivhu General Hospital | 20 |
| Chivhu GMB | 20 |
| N Ritchards | 15 |
| Liebenberg High school | 15 |

3.4 Sample size

The sample size: $n = \frac{80}{5}$
 $n = 16$

The sample size for Chivhu Rural Supply chains organizations was 16. The researcher managed to have the sample since dealing with the whole population is time consuming.

3.5 Sampling Techniques

Saunders (2000) argued that the techniques for sampling needs the researcher to focus on a certain group than doing a random research. These are some of the data collection procedures that were used, and the researcher's reasoning for using them is detailed below.

3.5.1 Purposive Sampling

The procurement departments were chosen by the researcher because they are involved in daily operations of organizational needs and are better able to provide knowledge on operations as compared to other departments. The researcher only used a sample of 16 people from an 80-person workforce because they were actively involved in procurement.

3.6 Research Instruments

There are many instruments when collecting data. These include conducting interviews and the use of questionnaires to have access to the required information

3.6.1 Questionnaires

Refers to a method for gathering data direct from the field. They give people access to answer the question in comfort of their homes or workplace. This raises the standard of results. These are necessary for records for the future (Ograh and Ayarkwa, 2020). People were selected from different departments which are Procurement and the general public to answer questions about the role of sustainable procurement in Chivhu rural development. The questionnaires were designed with the objectives and the questions as a reference. Questionnaires were reasonably quick to collect information from, and they allowed for the collection of data from a wide section of the sample population. The surveys were valuable since the questions were standardized, making it easier to compare replies from different questionnaires. Questioners allowed respondents to provide standardized results which was deemed appropriate. However, surveys have several drawbacks, such as respondents taking longer to respond and questionnaires being time-consuming. The researcher administered 44 questionnaires to the staff of all companies operating in Chivhu rural area.

3.6.2 Interview guide

Since buyers in all targeted companies operating in Chivhu rural area are the ones in charge of purchasing, an interview guide was employed to acquire information from them. An interview was applied by the researcher since it allowed for speedy responses and first-hand knowledge. The information acquired during the interview assisted the researcher in gaining a thorough understanding of the challenges faced when trying conserve the environment. Winston (1997) argued on interviews that they focus on the review of the issue and that they are the ideal strategy to use when using case studies.

3.7 Document Reviews

This refers to the use of data that has already been stored. For example, the use of purchase orders by the PMU department. This has benefits of being readily available at any given time.

3.8 Data collection procedure

According to (Thrasher, 2014), data is the result of interpretation and construction; for example, to provide perceptions and meanings and to apply knowledge, intelligence, and intuition. The responders were given thirty questionnaires by hand and fourteen were send via email. The researcher initially explained to the organization and the college why the study was being conducted.

3.8,1 Primary data

The questionnaires were create with a tick in the box and has both open and ended questions. The researcher submitted the questionnaires herself. Questionnaires were provided to respondents for three weeks to complete. In addition, extra information was acquired and responses by doing interviews.

3.8.2 Secondary data

This was gathered from a variety of sources, including the internet, websites, library textbooks, magazines, and procurement reports. It provided the researcher with more knowledge and a better grasp how to implement sustainable procurement in various parts of the world.

3.9 Data Presentation and Analysis Procedure

Data analysis aided in determining the extent to which sustainable procurement plays a role in rural development. The results that was found were analyzed by the Excel and SPSS Software. We conducted the analysis using inferential statistics such as mode, median, mean and standard deviation. Bar graphs, tables and pie charts were used to convey both quantitative and qualitative data. Each diagram has an explanation and connections to past research. Results are utilized to compare with prior studies, and they aid in the development of best practices for implementing sustainable procurement.

3.10 Reliability and validity of data

3.10.1 Validity

The researcher and his supervisor thoroughly reviewed the questionnaire to ensure its applicability, accuracy, and validity. The sample was part of the target population, hence ensure validity. According to Thiart (2001), the key validity issues is accuracy and relevant, and the how much we may analyse from the results.

3.10.2 Reliability

To ensure that fieldwork was completed with high-quality data, a step-by-step method was used to design the questionnaire, which also included modifications by the study supervisor. Additionally, the credibility of the writers report and its degree of coherence issue were confirmed by the literature from books and journals. Reliability, according to Collis and Hussey (2003), refers to the correctness and consistency of the results acquired, and it is attained if the results can be reproduced.

3.11 Ethical considerations

Chimberengwa et al., (2015) defined ethics as principles or norms, values, beliefs and judgments on our acts and interactions with other people. The researcher was authorized carry out the investigation. The researcher informed participants that their answers would be kept confidential and anonymous. Each and every piece of data acquired had to be used just to carry out the study.

3.12 Summary

This chapter included coverage of the research designs, methods, tools, and data presentation procedures. In addition, a variety of sampling and data gathering techniques (such as an interview and a questionnaire) were used to supplement either of the procedures' shortcomings. The questionnaire's administration, data collection, and analysis presented ethical challenges to the researcher. The following chapter goes into data display, analysis, and discussion.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The presentation and analysis of the information gathered are the key topics of this chapter. It displays the findings as well as results. The chapter serves to answer the research question, therefore achieving the expected results. The researcher used tables and graphs to analyse data.

4.2 Response rate

Five questionnaires were distributed to Chivhu general hospital, 5 Chivhu GMB, 6 to N Richards, and 5 to Liebenberg High school. 15 questionnaires were responded to and 5 questionnaires were not responded. Table 4. 1: Shows the distribution and respondents of the questionnaires

Table 2: Response Rate

| Business organizations | Number of respondents | Response rate |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chivhu General Hospital | 4 | 3 |
| Chivhu GMB | 5 | 3 |
| N. Richards | 6 | 5 |
| Liebenberg | 5 | 4 |
| Total | 20 | 15 |

The surveys were checked by the researcher after receiving a response, and the results are shown:

Table 4.2 displays the questionnaire replies.

Displaying the results of survey responses

Table 3: Survey Responses

| | Frequency | Percentage | Valid percentage | Cumulative |
|---------------|-----------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Responses | 15 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Non responses | 5 | 25 | 25 | 100 |
| Total | 20 | 100 | 100 | 200 |

Source: Primary data

The results of the questionnaires that the researcher distributed are displayed in Table 4.2 above. Therefore, 75% of the total respondents responded, which is the response rate. Any response rate of greater than 50%, according to Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2000), is sufficient to ensure the valid results. This perspective holds that the study's response rate is representative of the general community.

4.3 Biographical data

The researcher opted to combine the demographic information from the questionnaire and interview participants. Below, in systematic order, are the respondents' demographic characteristics, such as gender, occupation, work history, and educational background.

4.3.1 Gender respondents

Table 4.3 displays the frequency on gender respondents

Table 4: Gender respondents

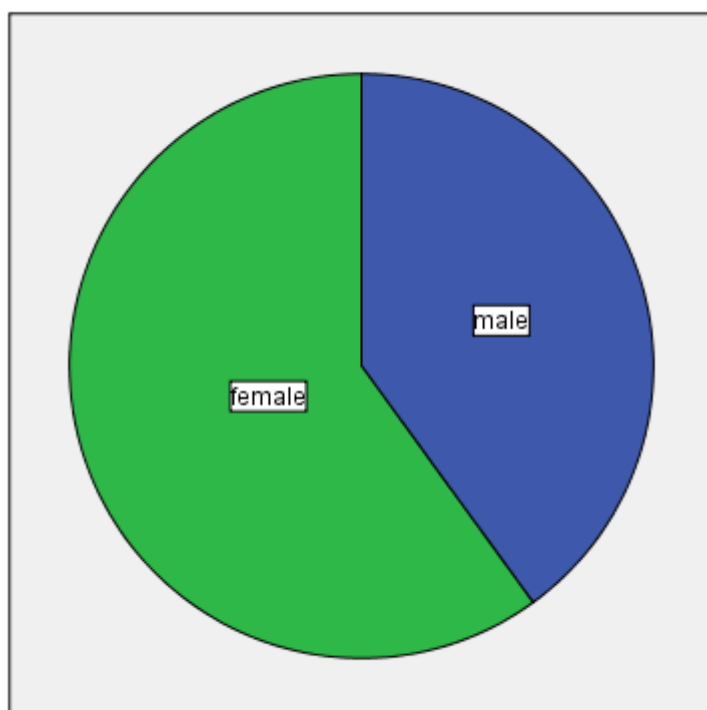
| Gender | | | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Male | 6 | 30.0 | 40.0 | 40.0 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------|
| | Female | 9 | 45.0 | 60.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 15 | 75.0 | 100.0 | |
| Missing | System | 5 | 25.0 | | |
| Total | | 20 | 100.0 | | |

Source: Primary Data

Figure 4.1 displays the research findings about gender in a methodical manner.

Figure 1: Gender responses



Data from primary sources

The gender breakdown of the respondents reveals that men predominate with a 70% majority, while women made up 30% of the respondents. This is perhaps a sign that women are still having more difficulty than men in the area of sustainable procurement. However, both men and women participated equally, and the researcher was able to obtain accurate information from the respondents without the use of partiality.

4.3.3 Academic Qualifications of Respondents

The research findings are shown below:

Table 4.3.1 showing frequency and cumulative for qualifications

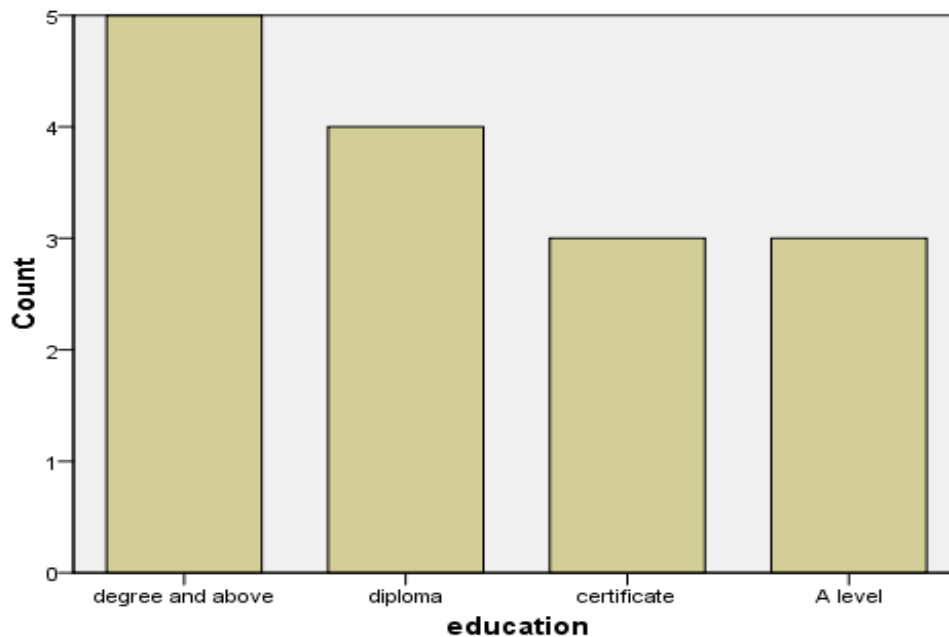
Table 5: Education Level

Education

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | degree and above | 5 | 25.0 | 33.3 | 33.3 |
| | Diploma | 4 | 20.0 | 26.7 | 60.0 |
| | Certificate | 3 | 15.0 | 20.0 | 80.0 |
| | A level | 3 | 15.0 | 20.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 15 | 75.0 | 100.0 | |
| Missing | System | 5 | 25.0 | | |
| Total | | 20 | 100.0 | | |

Source: Primary Data

Figure 2: Education Level



Source: Primary data

According to the research study, the majority of respondents held degree and above qualifications, while only a small percentage held A -level credentials. The ability to understand the questionnaire demonstrates the respondents' literacy. The Chivhu rural supply chains area benefits from the high literacy rate since those working in procurement for such businesses should be able to comprehend the importance of sustainable procurement in their rural communities. The conclusions of this study were in direct opposition to those findings.4.4.2

4.3.5 Work experience or service of respondents

Table showing frequency

Table 6: Work experience

Experience

| | | Frequency | Percentage | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|------|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | 0-10 | 5 | 25.0 | 33.3 | 33.3 |

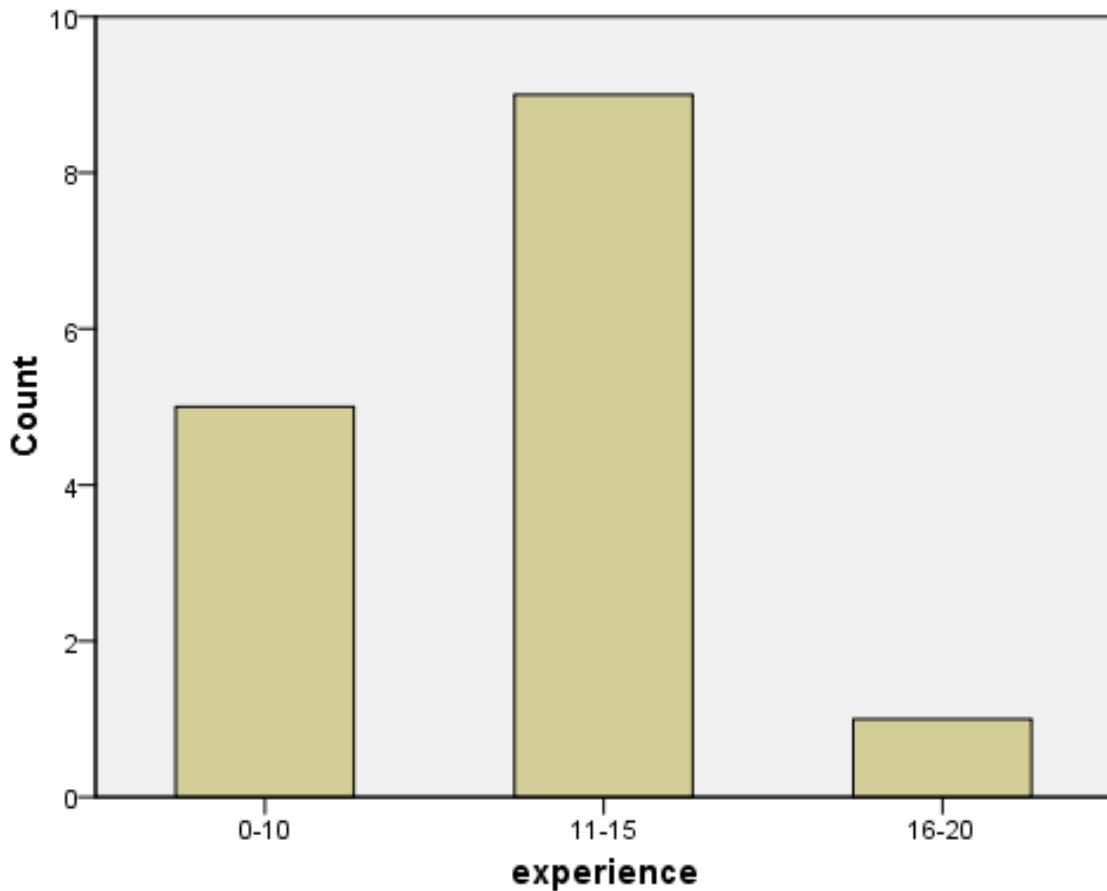
| | | | | | |
|---------|--------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| | 11-15 | 9 | 45.0 | 60.0 | 93.3 |
| | 16-20 | 1 | 5.0 | 6.7 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 15 | 75.0 | 100.0 | |
| Missing | System | 5 | 25.0 | | |
| Total | | 20 | 100.0 | | |

Source: Primary Data

In Figure 4.3.5 below, the research results related to working experience are statistically displayed. The "employment period" was included in the questionnaire because the selection and dissemination approach was purposefully designed with the goal of gathering valuable information from experienced persons.

Figure 4.3 .5 shows the length of relevant experience

Figure 3: Working experience



Source: Primary data

According to the findings regarding respondents' work service, 21.1% of respondents have 0-10 to 10 years of experience in the council, 26.3% have 1 to 5 years of experience in the industry, 7.9% have less than 1 year, and 44.7% have more than 10 years of experience in the council. This demonstrates that most people are aware of the procurement strategies employed by Chivhu rural supply chains enterprises, and it also highlights the importance of work experience in demonstrating industry expertise.

4.4.7 The respondents work position in all organizations research conducted

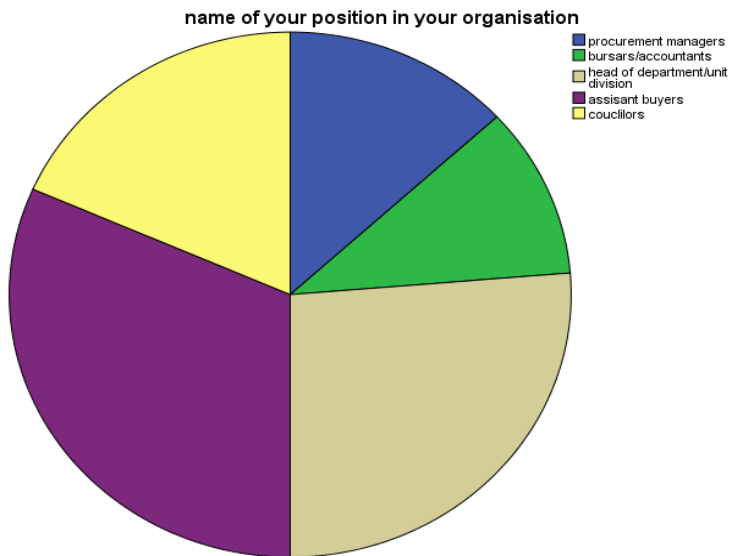
The study findings in regard to work position are shown below

Figure 4.4: 8Position held

Source: Primary data

The study findings in regard to work position are systematically shown in Figure 4.4 below

Figure 4: Work position



Source: Primary Data

The findings of the study in regard to positions shows that 12% of the respondents were procurement managers, 32% were assistant buyers, 10% bursars and accountants, 21% were councillors and 25% were head of departments. The respondents selected by the researcher were more experienced with procurement activities in all organizations chosen by the researcher and they were all involved in activities regarding the development of that area through sustainable procurement.

4.5 Questionnaire for research Analysis

The examination finished with a focus on the study's goals. To obtain more precise replies, the researcher broke each issue into several questions.

4.5.1 Analysing how environmental issues affect rural development in sustainable procurement

The respondents were asked on how environmental issues affect rural development in sustainable procurement in Chivhu rural supply chain. The researcher required the respondents to rank the environmental issues concerned On a five-point Likert scale, The environmental issues measured by the researcher includes removal and recycling of products, natural resource utilization, commitment to ISO 14001 and level of emissions (toxic gases).

Source: primary data

The gathered information of the researcher with respect to the natural resource utilization on environmental sustainability to rural development in Chivhu rural area. The results explains that most respondents dis-agreed that natural resource utilization concept in business organizations plays a role on rural development. According to Lăzăroiu et al., (2020), environmental concerns have led to the development of a new concept of SM with the primary goal of reducing the manufacturing sector's environmental effect. Manufacturing industries are responsible for a large portion of the world's resource use and trash production. In 2014, it accounted for about 20% of global total fuel combustion. ('Environmental Management Systems Meeting Stakeholder Expectations,' 2015) stated in their study that in order to develop sustainably, transformation is required in industrial processes, resource kinds and amounts used, waste management, emission control, and final products created.

Current government policy, according to Wilkinson and Kirtugo (2009), offers little to encourage the public sector to consider the carbon emissions connected with procurement. None of the National Indicators pertaining to climate change, for example, include procurement activity directly. As a result, the bulk of public sector organizations have paid little attention to lowering procurement-related emissions. The majority of respondents of agreed that in Chivhu rural area there is lower level of industrial emissions contributing to the role rural development in sustainable procurement. This research showed that there is less air pollution and clean air in this rural area.

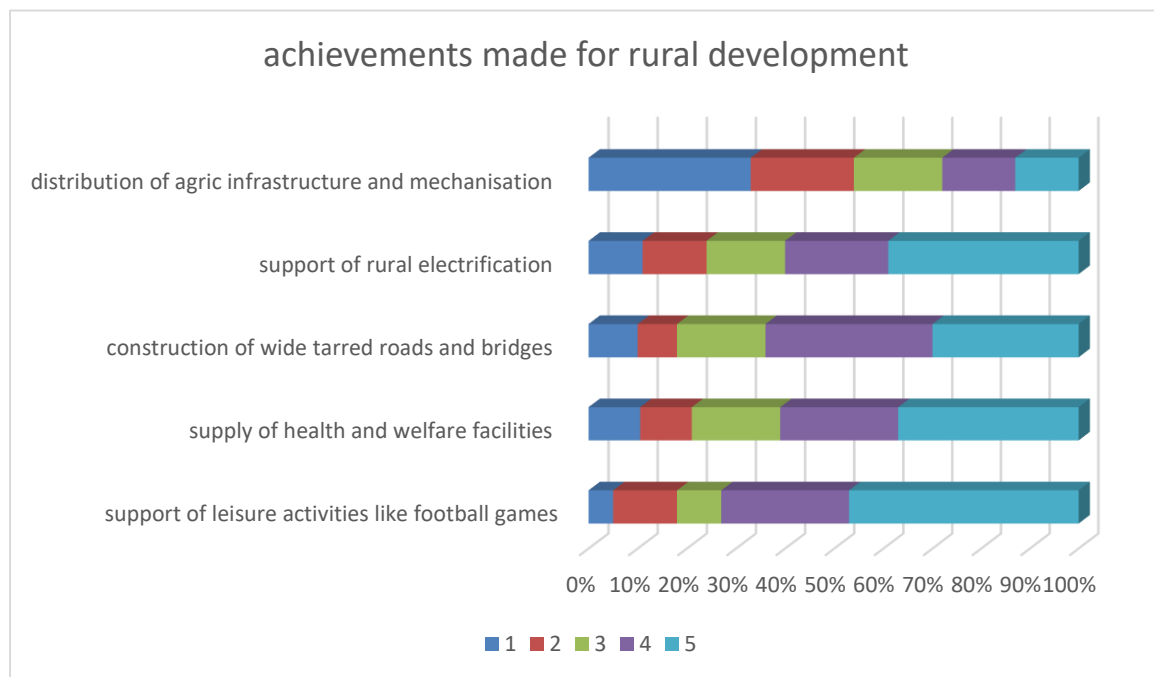
Purchasing products with recycled content act as an important part to reduce, reuse, and recycle life cycle. The demand for recycled materials and recycling is fuelled by the purchase of recycled-content products. When manufacturers employ recycled materials rather than raw materials, they contribute to reduce manufacturing pollution, conserve natural resources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Making recycled products also helps to advance green

technologies and build local economies, all while encouraging a sustainable community, business, and personal lifestyle (Kalubanga, 2012).

4.5.4 Assessing the achievements made buy the business organizations operating in Chivhu Rural area to bring rural development

Figure 5: Achievements made for rural development

The results of the respondents are shown below



Source: Primary Data

The researcher asked the respondents to correspond to achievements made by their business organizations through sustainable procurement to bring rural development in Chivhu Rural Area. The results are given below:

Figure 4.5 Achievements made by various organizations in sustainable procurement to bring rural development.

Figure 4.5 shows that 33% of respondents strongly disagreed that their businesses had made significant progress on distributing agricultural infrastructure and mechanization for rural development. 15% agreed, 21% disagreed, 18% were unsure, 13% strongly disagreed, and 15%

agreed. According to the findings, 54% of respondents in total disagreed that commercial entities provide agricultural infrastructure and automation.

According to the research, 34% of respondents agreed that their companies had made significant progress toward developing Chivhu rural areas by building tarred roads, pavements, and bridges through sustainable procurement; 30% strongly agreed; 18% were unsure; 8% disagreed; and 10% strongly disagreed. Local suppliers donated food and drinks to company personnel on the construction site, and local workers were hired to build the road, creating new employment opportunities for local residents. According to Broesterhuizen et al. (2014), the company's internship programs allowed nearby engineering students to gain practical experience.

Pauser, and Djerma (2015) suggested that remote settlements have low income and it is not economically sustainable, which is one of the major roadblocks to rural electrification. As a result, financial sustainability is a critical, yet difficult, part of rural electrification projects and initiatives. Figure 4.5, shows that, 39% strongly agreed that their business organizations achieved a lot in the support of the process of rural electrification to develop Chivhu rural area through sustainable procurement. The central government has a significant role in the majority of rural electrification business models. The federal government must enact enabling legislation and regulations, as well as provide support to those working to enhance and expand rural electrification central government has a significant role in the majority of rural electrification business models. The federal government must enact enabling legislation and regulations, as well as provide support to those working to enhance and expand rural electrification (Broesterhuizen et al., 2014).The majority of 61% of respondents showed that their business organizations achieved a lot to supply health and welfare facilities in hospitals and clinics to improve rural development program in Chivhu area. 37% strongly agreed, 24 % agreed, 18% were not sure, 10% dis-agreed same as with those who strongly agreed.

According to Gwati (2014), active purchasing attempts to improve quality, equality, and efficiency by taking into account the population's health needs and the actions that best meet those needs given the resources at hand. It also covers the ideal distribution of therapeutic, promotional, preventive, and rehabilitative services, as well as how and from whom they should be obtained, according to BUZAN (2016). With the establishment of the Government of National Unity in 2009, the creation of a plan to revitalize the healthcare industry in the form

of the 100-day plan began. The strategy acknowledged the importance of health financing for the equitable, effective, and high-quality operation of health systems. The plan's conceptual base was to re-establish fundamental medical services.

The research's conclusions in relation to the efforts made by commercial groups to support leisure activities, support cultural activities, and finance sports facilities for rural development. 26% agreed, 9% were unsure, 47% strongly agreed, 13% disagreed, and 5% strongly disagreed. The provision of new or improved sporting facilities, sports, and the hosting of MSEs may all offer a variety of social goods, according to (Mega-Sporting Events Platform for Human Rights, 2017). Sports events also act as a catalyst for or accelerate previously planned urban development and related building works. Following an event, or urban regeneration (perhaps accomplished through land remediation), for example, community facilities, new public spaces, or the supply of affordable housing may be essential elements of a plan.

Reliability Test

Table 7: Reliability Test

| | | N | Percentage % |
|-------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Cases | Valid | 19 | 95.0 |
| | Excluded | 1 | 5.0 |
| | Total | 20 | 100.0 |

Source: Primary Data

Table 8: Reliability Statistics

Reliability Statistics

| Cronbach's Alpha | Number of Items |
|------------------|-----------------|
| .737 | 20 |

Source: Primary Data

The result on reliability test for education facility, healthy, leisure and environmental issues shows that the value is above 0.7 which shows results are valid and are in line with the required alpha value.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter tries to give the results, recommendations and conclusions.

5.2 Summary of the Research findings

The reason for this research to be conducted was to analyse the role of sustainable purchasing, a case of rural supply chains in Chivhu. The research project managed to state environmental, social and economic issues in sustainable procurement that may lead to rural development as well as achievements made by various companies through sustainable procurement to rural development.

The researcher discovered that a majority of response indicated that they ensure the natural resource utilization of water, forestry and minerals in environmental sustainability through procurement for rural development. On removal and recycling of products the majority of respondents agreed that their business organization considers it while the minority of respondents dis-agreed. In regard to social sustainability the majority of respondents dis-agreed that their business organizations ensure fair and ethical trading in procurement activities to ensure rural development. This revealed that the most of respondents dis-agreed that their business organizations buy from local suppliers.

It also shows that majority of 33% and 21% dis-agreed and strongly dis-agreed that their business organization achieved the distribution of agricultural infrastructure and machinery for rural development through sustainable procurement due to political reasons. The research shows that 37% agreed that their organizations are supplying drugs and medicines to improve health and welfare facilities for rural development, while the minority of 10% dis-agreed. The research also revealed that cumulative majority of 73% agreed that their business organizations are supporting leisure activities and sports with finance and equipment's whilst the cumulative minority of 18% dis-agreed.

5.3 Conclusion

The research findings of the student indicated that business organizations established in Chivhu considers the role of sustainable procurement but not as much as the level expected. In all aspects of sustainable procurement there is certain areas they focus with and some areas they put less focus. For instance, on environmental sustainability results shows that there focus is more on reducing the level of emissions and, removal, packaging and recycling of products unlike on their commitment to ISO to 14001 and Natural Resource Utilization. Chivhu mining company is utilizing all resources like minerals, water and forestry without appropriate conservation measures of those resources due to financial and economic instability.

In regard to social sustainability in procurement, the researcher also concludes that business organizations like Chivhu General, Liebenberg High school, N Richards and schools put more focus on procurement of human and core labour standards for rural development to ensure health and safety values of employees required by trade unions and other labour organizations. However, procurement activities are not fair and ethical to achieve sustainability due to corruption, bribes and kickbacks from suppliers and lack of transparent and auditing procedures. On economic sustainability, the results showed that organizations like schools, supermarkets and mining company are not in a position to promote Indigenization and Empowerment Policy by supporting local suppliers. Their focus is more on importing due to poor quality and expensive of goods produced by local suppliers. The efficiency of inventory is at moderate level as most of the respondents replied. The inventory level efficiency is less due to low demand of goods and services as the consumers lacks enough finance to purchase goods due to economic hardships.

The study also concludes that business organizations achieved lot for rural development Chivhu rural area in areas like infrastructural development on road construction, road pavements and bridges, supply of electricity in business centres and rural homes as well as supplying of health and medical facilities. All of these things achieved improved living conditions of local people due to easier transportation of goods and services, use of electricity as a source of energy. Through sustainable procurement Chivhu mining company also support local people with football kits, transport and finance for sports and other leisure activities. However, on support to agricultural infrastructure and machinery, there is corruption and

political influences which result for it to be less successful. Other respondents argued that support on agricultural infrastructure and machinery is due to drought conditions found in that area, so it's not necessary for companies to waste their finance investing in agricultural activities.

5.4 Recommendations

Using the conclusions above, the researcher is recommending business organizations operating in Chivhu rural area to put their commitment on ISO 14001. The great concern is on Chivhu General mining company that all policies set by this company should be related to the priorities of the ministry of environment and they should obtain certificates certified by Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and their decision should be based and contributing towards the improvement of environment sustainability in Supply. This will bring a better effect to rural development

Business organization in Chivhu rural area should put their commitment in procurement activities by having policy statements that exploring in various conditions for rural development. The study also recommend on procurement of agricultural infrastructure and mechanizations by saying that business organization in Chivhu rural area should adopt Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by agreeing and joining together to construct more dams for irrigation and irrigation equipment's should be supplied in order to promote food industry and supporting our economy and brings rural development.

The study also recommend that business organization operating in Chivhu rural area especially N Richards's group and Hospitals to train their staff and offering them skills about sustainable procurement and how to use sustainable procurement for rural development. Staff should be aware of importance of sustainable procurement like company good reputation and perceived costs.

The study recommends that all procurement departments of all business organizations involved in Chivhu rural area should meet and integrate to sign agreements of mutual understanding on sustainable procurement practices that brings rural development.

The research also recommend the government to enforce the Empowerment Policy that promote infant industries. Strategies should be implemented to improve procurement programs by enforcing big organizations like Chivhu Grain Marketing Board, schools and N Richard

super market to support local suppliers. Supplier development should be used to small suppliers operating in that rural area and this will meet sustainable procurement goals and rural development.

The research also recommends several business organizations to ratify environmental legislation and policies to guide the utilization of natural resources like minerals, soil, and forestry. Companies should develop roads, support sports activities and safe water for rural development.

5.5 Suggestion for further research

The research project was proposed to evaluate the importance of protecting the environment and contributing to the society in rural development using the case of Chivhu rural supply chains. As a result, this research is by no means comprehensive, there is need to carry other researches regarding the role of sustainable procurement in urban and town improvements. This current study is using a case of Chivhu rural area, other researchers should conduct this similar research using other rural areas as case studies across the country.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Introductory Letter

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Dear Participant

I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) undertaking a research project in partial fulfilment for a bachelor of commerce degree in Purchasing and Supply Chain Management. I am researching on the topic: The role of sustainable procurement in rural development. Please read and answer the questions ticking the box of your choice.

This research is purely for academic purpose only and the information provided is taken to be confidential.

Yours sincerely

Blessed Chakanyuka

Contact Numbers: 0718781942/ 0781279151

Email address: blessedchakanyuka2@gmail.

Appendix 2: Measurement Instrument

SECTION A: Demographic information

INSTRUCTIONS

Please use the following checkboxes to select your best answer to each question with respect to yourself. Each question requires an answer and you may select only one answer.

Section A: Personal Details

Please kindly provide the following information (tick where proprietary)

1. Gender

| | |
|--------|--|
| male | |
| Female | |

2. Age group in years

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 18-30 | |
| 31-45 | |
| 46-60 | |
| 61- above | |

3. Level of education

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Degree and above | |
| Diploma | |
| Certificate | |
| A 'level | |

4. Length of employment period in the organization (years)

| | |
|----------|--|
| 0-10 | |
| 11-15 | |
| 16-20 | |
| 21-above | |

5. Name of organization and position held

.....
 ...

Section (B): Sustainable procurement issues on rural development

6. To what extent does your organization agree on the following environmental sustainability issues on rural development in procurement? Rate as below

| Environmental issues | Strongly Agree (SA) | Agree (A) | Not sure (N) | Dis-agree (D) | Strongly dis-agree (SD) |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Environmental issues | Strongly Agree (SA) | Agree (A) | Not sure (N) | Dis-agree (D) | Strongly dis-agree (SD) |
| Natural resource utilization e.g water, forestry, minerals etc. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Level of emissions (toxic gases) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Packaging, reuse and recycling | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Level disposal of solid waste through registered contractors | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

7. To what extent does your organization agree on the following social sustainability issues on rural development in procurement? Rate as bellow

| Social issues | SA | A | N | D | SD |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Human rights and core labour standards | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Fair and ethical trade | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Equality on gender, race and disability | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Elimination of child labour | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

8. To what extent does your organization agree on the following economic sustainability issues on rural development in procurement? Rate as below

| Economic issues | SA | A | N | D | SP |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Quality on ISO Quality installed , | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Procuring from local suppliers / local enterprises | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Efficiency on inventory level | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Responsiveness on production flexibility | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

9. To what extent does your organization agree on the achievement of the following issues on rural development through sustainable procurement? Rate as below

| Rural development issues | SA | A | N | D | SD |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Distribution of agricultural infrastructure and mechanization | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Infrastructural development on road pavements, construction of bridges and wide tarred roads | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Support on rural electrification | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Supply of health and welfare facilities like drugs, gloves and machines | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Supply of educational facilities like furniture, computers and construction of class blocks | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Construction of dams for clean water supply, swimming and fishing activities | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Supporting of leisure activities, supporting of cultural activities ,funding of sports facilities | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Thank you for your cooperation, valuable time and information

Dessertation Final

ORIGINALITY REPORT

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**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

RESEARCH SUPERVISION PROGRESS REPORT

STUDENT'S NAME: BLESSED CHAKANYUKA
REG. NUMBER: B193374B

DISSERTATION SUPERVISOR: MS TAPFUMA
PROGRAMME: PURCHASING AND SUPPLY

DISSERTATION TITLE: THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT
 IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT, A CASE OF RURAL SUPPLY CHAINS

| DATE | STAGE OF RESEARCH | SUPERVISORS' COMMENTS AND INITIALS | STUDENT'S SIGNATURE |
|------------|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 20/02/2023 | PROPOSAL | WORK ON RESEARCH QUESTIONS, IMPROVE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND MOVE ON TO CHAPTER 1 | |
| 16/03/2023 | CHAPTER 1 | USE FUNNEL APPROACH. GOOD STATEMENT OF PROBLEM. USE THE SAME FONT SIZE. | |
| 30/03/2023 | CHAPTER 2 | LABEL SUBHEADINGS APPROPRIATELY, ADD MORE FLESH | |
| 01/04/2023 | CHAPTER 3 | SEND RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS, COLLECT DATA, ANALYSE AND SUBMIT CHAPTERS 3,4,5 FROM NOW | |
| 22/04/2023 | CHAPTER 4 | YOU MUST USE APPROPRIATE TOOL TO ANALYZE DATA (SPSS) | |
| 18/05/2023 | CHAPTER 5 | WORKING ON SPSS AND PAGE NUMBERING. | |
| 26/05/23 | CHAPTER 1_5 | IMPROVE YOUR COVER PAGE | |
| 29/05/23 | CHAPTER 1_5 | NUMBER YOUR PAGES CORRECTLY | |
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| | | | |

OVERALL COMMENTS BY THE SUPERVISOR:

.....

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE:
DATE: 29/05/23

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE:
DATE: