

**CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCESS TO  
GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIAL INTEREST  
GROUPS IN KENYA: A CASE OF NAIROBI COUNTY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Participation of Special Interest Groups in Public procurement is an important function of any government for several reasons. First, the sheer magnitude of Special interest Groups in procurement outlays has a great impact on the economy and needs to be well managed. Indeed, in all countries in the world, estimates of the financial activities of government procurement by the youth are believed to be in the order of 10% – 30 % of GNP. Execution of the directive of the Government to set aside 30% of all public entities procurement spend within a given financial year for youth, persons with disability and women is a growing challenge. In the recent past, governments have sought to reduce the ever-increasing unemployment levels by offering to assist young people and the disadvantaged with startup capital. Many governments have established funds targeting women entrepreneurs and the youth because they are often left out of the economic mainstream and most disadvantaged when it comes to accessing startup capital or loans from the existing financial infrastructure. The general objective of this study is to examine the challenges affecting the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya: a case of Nairobi County. Implementation of the AGPO was regressed against four variables of legal framework, Funding, Training and access to information.

**Key Words:** *Special Interest Groups, Public procurement, economy, unemployment, legal framework, Funding, Training and access to information*

**Introduction**

Participation of Special Interest Groups in Public procurement is an important function of any government for several reasons Blome, & Schoenherr, (2011). First, the sheer magnitude of

Special interest Groups in procurement outlays has a great impact on the economy and needs to be well managed. Indeed, in all countries in the world, estimates of the financial activities of government procurement by the youth are believed to be in the order of 10% – 30 % of GNP (Callender & Mathews, 2000).

Many governments now practice gender mainstreaming when designing national budgets (also referred to as gender responsive budgeting) to make sure national economic planning pays adequate attention to the unique challenges of women's economic empowerment, World Bank (2006).

In an acknowledgment of the fact that expanding entrepreneurial activity among all sections of society is a key driver of economic growth, many international development banks are becoming increasingly entrepreneurial in their outlook and channeling an ever increasing proportion of their portfolios through enterprise funds and soft loans to commercial banks for on-lending to youth and women, rather than through traditional development grants, (Fanuel, 2001). The role of progressive legislation in empowering women in accessing public procurement opportunity has proven successful around the world (Neha et al., 2012). Governments in the 21st century are under increasing pressure to use more effective and efficient social procurement practices to deliver services and achieve their goals.

Empowerment programmes organized at the national and international level are increasingly targeting youth and women (Ashmore, (2000). Adolescence is loosely defined as the transition period between childhood or immaturity and legal adulthood, and has different age ranges according to cultural, social and legal norms in each country, along with different cultural and social challenges (Ashmore, (2000). These vulnerable populations are more likely to be overlooked by government programmes, less likely to receive skills, training and therefore at greater risk of being unemployed and having no source of livelihood (Attaran, (2002).

In the recent past, governments have sought to reduce the ever-increasing unemployment levels by offering to assist young people and the disadvantaged with startup capital Langlois, (2002). Many governments have established funds targeting women entrepreneurs and the youth because they are often left out of the economic mainstream and most disadvantaged when it comes to accessing start up capital or loans from the existing financial infrastructure World Bank (2012).

Many governments now practice gender mainstreaming when designing national budgets to make sure national economic planning pays adequate attention to the unique challenges of women's economic empowerment (UNICEF. 2005). In acknowledgment of the fact that expanding entrepreneurial activities among all sections of society is a key driver of economic growth, many international development banks are becoming increasingly entrepreneurial in their outlook and channeling an ever increasing proportion of their portfolios through enterprise funds and soft loans to commercial banks for on-lending to youth and women, rather than

through traditional development grants. FMO, the Dutch Development Bank, for example, formally refers to itself as 'an entrepreneurial development bank (Fanuel, 2001).

The burgeoning social entrepreneurship sector which taps practical and creative business approaches in solving pressing social and development problems have been equally instrumental around the world in creating opportunity for women, youth and the disadvantaged Bof, & Previtali, (2007). International social entrepreneurship groups such as KIVA, Opportunity International, the Acumen Fund and The Omidyar Network are a few global examples that have played a significant role in closing the gender gap (Ashoka, 2004). An organisation that lends towards social impact projects in over 60 countries, runs a special Youth Venture programme that funds innovative business oriented ideas by the youth with a positive social impact. In this era of globalization, generating economic growth in countries while reducing poverty is a fundamental development challenge (Ashoka, 2004). To ensure that the contribution of micro enterprises to key sub sectors and national economies is maximized and to ensure the poor are not left out of the market development, access to finance, business services, improved inputs, a conducive enabling environment that facilitates rather than inhibits participation in public procurement is crucial (USAID, Micro Enterprise Development, 2013).

The Youth have the potential to accelerate productivity growth, but left idle, can represent a risk to social stability and in the longer term a risk to development of the nation's economy (R.o.K 2013). Ensuring that youths are successfully integrated into the economy through procurement will improve Kenya's competitiveness, raise household incomes, reduce poverty, and create a circle of investment and growth (Gatere, 2014). Unemployment has become a huge challenge for the country and the magnitude of the problem especially large among the youth. The overall unemployment rate for the youth is double the adult average, at about 21%. Statistics on joblessness suggest that the magnitude of unemployment problem is larger for youth with 38% of the youth neither in school nor work aggregating the rates of unemployment and inactivity (R.o.K, 2005).

Women are the backbone of rural economies in Kenya and Africa as a whole. They play a significant role in ensuring their families' wellbeing Mota, & Filho. (2011). To fight poverty in Kenya, women need to be accepted and supported through funds like Uwezo and provision of capacity building and training in functional business areas with the ultimate goal of promoting the social and economic status of women, as they constitute a vulnerable social category that is critical in sustainable development endeavors. Unequal procurement opportunities between women and men continue to hamper women's ability to lift themselves from poverty and gain more options to improve their lives (Fanuel 2001). Research shows that, regardless of inequalities that persist in the way paid and unpaid work is divided between women and men, women remain the sole caregivers despite limited access to resources (Ongori, 2009). In fact women's empowerment in public procurement is a matter of advancing women's human rights (Otunga et al., 2001).

Lack of employable and entrepreneurial skills, are some of the most crucial problems facing communities of people with disability and society at large to be included in public procurement. As a result people with disability are generally excluded from public procurement thereby hampering their overall economic independence (R.o.K, 2013). Though there exist various programs initiated by government and corporate organization for improving the skills levels of the general work force, little attention has been given to the benefit of empowerment particularly through public procurement. Some who have acquired vocational training are not equipped with the right entrepreneurial skills required to enhance competitiveness for decent employment, job creation, social inclusion and poverty reduction spurring economic and professional independence while making optimum use of available resources (Bolton, 2006).

### **Access to Government Procurement Opportunity**

The aim of AGPO Program is to facilitate the youth, women and persons with disability-owned enterprises to participate in government procurement R. o. K (2013). This was made possible through the implementation of the Presidential Directive that 30% of government procurement opportunities be set aside specifically for these enterprises. It is affirmative action aimed at empowering youth, women and persons with disability-owned enterprises by giving them more opportunities to do business with Government. The Public Procurement and Disposal (Preference and Reservations) Regulations, 2011, shall apply to procurements by public entities when soliciting tenders from the following target groups: Disadvantaged Groups (Youth, Women, and Persons with Disability), Small Enterprises, Micro Enterprises, Citizen Contractors, local Contractors and Citizen Contractors in Joint-venture or Sub-contracting arrangements with foreign suppliers.

For the last one year the government has been registering and pre-qualifying Youth, Women and Persons with Disability owned enterprises so that they can access government tenders and contracts. Government tenders amount to billions each year; it is a great opening for the Youth, Women and Persons with Disability. In 2013, His Excellency the President Uhuru Kenyatta, directed that the procurement rules be amended to allow 30 per cent of contracts to be given to the youth, women and persons with disability without competition from established firms.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The youth constitute the generation that has lived through the greatest social, political, intellectual, scientific and technological transformation in modern history (McWilliams & Siegel, (2001). This exerts its own unique pressures, which, coupled with crime, drug abuse and moral corruption creates a series of challenges (Maloni & Benton, 2000). However, it has been generally recognized that established small youth and women enterprises have faced unique problems, which have affected their growth and profitability, hence diminishing their ability to contribute effectively to sustainable development through public procurement (Knudsen, 2003).

In Kenya special groups constitute over 85% of the entire population yet they contribute to less than 10% of public procurement involvement thus hampering economic growth and achievement of vision 2030 (Transparency international, 2013). Many of the problems cited by the special groups have included capacity building, lack of access to credit, inadequate skills, poor information and inhibitive legal regulatory framework (Brinkerhoff, 2004). The implementation outcome of the 30% government procurement preference for youth, women and persons with disabilities (AGPO) is anticipated to make a significant contribution to GDP of not less than 15% per annum (R.O.K 2013).

The biggest question remains, are the special groups in Kenya which include; women, youth and people living with disabilities accessing the 30% government procurement preference? This study therefore underlines the challenges affecting the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya: a case of Nairobi County

## **Literature Review**

### **Legal Framework**

The public procurement process may be viewed as proceeding through various stages of progression Varney, M. (2011). It has been argued (Walker, 2003) that public procurement reform is most likely to succeed when it proceeds through a step process: There has to be support from highest political levels: this is seen as necessary for any organizational change to succeed, as it avoids any doubt about the government's commitment to reform; Publicity about the advantages of the new system; There is need for cooperation between the public and private sector leading to better understanding of each other's problems and needs; There is need for good procurement training: to raise the skills of procurement staff and to familiarize suppliers with the requirements of the reformed system; There is need for good procurement legislation: both primary legislation and secondary implementing legislation; and also the need for establishment of a central public procurement office for overall policy making and supervision of public procurement in the country.

The Public Procurement Oversight Authority (PPOA 2005) review team identified the following challenges faced by National Social Security Fund (NSSF) in respect of the implementation of the procurement law and regulations: Inability to translate procurement law and regulations into everyday language, so that management sees and understands the impact to their compliance; inadequate records management and filing systems, Musa et al, (2011). Retrieving records for review purposes was slow, time consuming and even for the files made available, some records pertaining to fulfillment of the procurement process were incomplete, limiting the review scope; Lack of operating ICT systems and applications covering all aspects of procurement; Insufficient training in procurement law for the persons involved in the procurement related functions Inadequate contract management and Insufficient communication and coordination between the

user departments and Procurement Unit on procurement planning and implementation (PPOA, 2006).

### **Funding**

The development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) run by specialized groups is very important of the national economy and public procurement can be an important source of business for SMEs Orwa, (2007). However, access to public sector contracts by smaller entities is often seen as a problem, at national and global level, for many in the sector. While sustaining development impacts is key, it is the majority at grassroots that accelerate and sustain poverty reduction efforts (Gichure, 2007), hence the need to target the rural poor to achieve overall economic growth by funding them to be able to access public procurement. Mamic (2005) argues that the high proportion of women in the poverty group in the third world makes efforts at development fruitless. This is because the investment threshold for the third world has pushed far above the current levels of funding to a point where local level development is the only feasible alternative solution Gomez (2009) development efforts that centre on sustainability must target the grassroots majority.

The Kenyan government has had an uphill task for youth and women groups to play in the big-ticket leagues of public procurement as they may not have the financial wherewithal Owino J (2013). Fortunately, there are a host of financial instruments being offered by various institutions, including local purchase order (LPO) financing and invoice discounting. There is also the Uwezo Fund and the youth and women enterprise fund. The trouble with supplying the government is that, because the quantities required are often very large, the capital requirement can be high. Yet processing an invoice can take months. “The best thing about getting a government contract is that you will get paid. The downside is it could take a while (Polo, 2008).

### **Training**

Public procurement policy makers recognize the importance of the role of SMEs in the economy, including the importance of their participation in the public procurement market Croom, (2005). Public procurement can help in the development of an effective and efficient SME sector by providing appropriate opportunities for SMEs which are mostly run by special groups to demonstrate their skills and capabilities, including the purchase of goods and services which allows SMEs to develop and demonstrate innovative goods and services Croom, & Johnston (2003),. In the past, procurement was considered mainly as an operational activity rather than as a key strategic function in the business planning process Hagén & Zeed, (2005). Public purchasers concentrated on compliance with rules and procedures set down in guidelines, regulations or EU Directives to seek value for money outcomes from procurement while observing necessary standards of probity and ethics Nagurney (2010). Further, Jamii Bora in Kenya is offer training to the special groups on how to bid for government contracts.

## **Information**

Most public procurement systems address in one way or another issue of how to provide information support for the domestic supplier base Griffith, & Myers (2005). Improved information techniques mostly through the internet for buying goods and services using modern quality standards and business practices in the government can help improve the efficiency of special group's suppliers as they compete for government contracts with big players. Such improvements in information access can enhance trade prospects by making these suppliers more acceptable vendors to global business partners Nelson et al (2007), Uninformed inefficient government suppliers provide poor value to their national government, and are unlikely to engage in any meaningful private sector trading partnerships in the era of global competition Zwicker, & Ringheim, (2004),. First, the primary source of information for these groups on what is to be awarded is the tender notices placed in the newspapers. But given the financial constraints faced by some of the procuring entities, these notices are generally posted only once Ogada et al (2008). As a result, many enterprises are unaware of what they are eligible to bid for.

## **Implementation of Access of Government Procurement Opportunities**

Government procurement can be a politically sensitive process. The size of Government bids coupled with the fact that it involves public funds means that the citizens of any country should share these bids equitably Benton et al (2005). The AGPO is a youth and women's procurement program which has its genesis in the pledge the Jubilee Party made to allocate the KShs. 6 billion that was meant for the presidential run-off to youth and women groups. The principles of Uwezo Fund are Representation, Accountability, Accessibility and spurring of economic growth. Representation, to ensure the inclusion of all Kenyans including women, youth, persons with disabilities, elected parliamentary representatives and respective government officials SMEDA (2002). Accountability; to ensure government is held responsible to the citizenry for its decisions and actions (Republic of Kenya 2013). Accessibility: guaranteeing accessibility at the lowest level of engagement and for the largest category of recipients using a simple, structured and least cost approach. Economy: use of the best but least cost mechanism to achieve the desired objective.

The process in procurement starts from the initiation of the need by user department and it is approved by the head of the department, as way one of acknowledging the requirement Eyaa, & Oluka, (2011). This has to do with the process of acquiring goods, works and services. It begins when a department has identified a need and decided on its procurement requirement. The process needs to adhere to the laid down procurement process and procedures in order to achieve procurement performance in Kenya. Procurement also extends to the ultimate disposal of property at the end of its useful life (Fisher & Lovell, 2009).

The public procurement process should uphold integrity by mitigating all malpractices; informed decision-making, which requires public bodies to base decisions on accurate information and ensure that requirements are being met Trkman, & McCormack, (2010). More still, the Procurement practice should be responsive to aspirations, expectations and needs of the target society. The executing of the responsibility entails professionalism from competent scholars in this paradigm. Also there is need for transparency to enhance openness and clarity on procurement policy and its delivery (World Bank, 2003).

According to Thai (2001), the basic principles of good procurement process include accountability, where effective mechanisms must be in place in order to enable procuring entities spend the available resources carefully, knowing clearly that they will account everything to members of the public; competitive supply, which requires procurement to be carried out by competitive bidding process, embracing transparency and efficiency in the system, unless there are convincing reasons for single sourcing; and consistency, which emphasizes the equal treatment of all bidders irrespective of race, nationality or political affiliation. These areas of

Public procurement processes has, for long, been overshadowed with inefficiency, corruption and disregard of fundamental "value for money" considerations. This has adversely impacted the rate and quality of progress in realizing the objectives of national development, especially in developing and transition countries (Tan et al., 2009).

Employees may neither engage in, nor give the appearance of engaging in, dishonest or unethical actions. Both are injurious to the public's perception of honest government. As a government employee, you might have access to procurement and other nonpublic information that could affect a contract bid or the award process (Wymer & Regan, 2005). Improper disclosure of such protected information could violate numerous laws, as well as ethics rules. It also could subject you to administrative actions, as well as civil or criminal penalties. Public procurement agencies should ensure that there is an appropriate focus on good practice in purchasing and, where there is a significant procurement function that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant guidelines.

### **Research Methodology**

This study adopted the use of descriptive research. The target population of this study comprised of 500 procurement staff of selected public entities within Nairobi County. The county is selected since almost all public entities are represented. The sample size was 50 respondents selected from the Public Entities. Random Sampling was used to obtain data. The researcher collected both primary and secondary data for the research. Primary data was collected using a questionnaire to establish the progress in implementation of the award of 30% of government contracts to the beneficiaries.

## **Research Findings**

The objectives of this study were; to examine how legal framework affects the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya, to determine how funding affects the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya, to identify how training affect implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya and to evaluate how information affects implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya.

## **Legal framework**

The study revealed that respondents were in agreement that respondents organization is fully complying with legal Notice no. 14 as indicated by a mean of 1.45 and a standard deviation of 0.75; that The entity awards 30% of all contracts to AGPO as shown by a mean of 1.85 and a standard deviation of 0.86 and that the entity is reserving the bids for items mandated in the law as shown by a mean of 1.98 and a standard deviation of 0.97. The study also found out that respondents were neutral on Legal notice no. 114 compliments public procurement and disposal (PPD) act & PPD regulations as shown by a mean of 2.48 and a standard deviation of 0.96; that There has to be support from highest political levels as shown by a mean of 2.23 and a standard deviation of 1.03 and that the respondent submitting reports of tenders awarded to special groups to PPOA as shown by a mean of 2.10 and a standard deviation of 1.10.

The study findings were supported by (Walker, 2003) who argued that public procurement reform is most likely to succeed when it proceeds through a step process: There has to be support from highest political levels: this is seen as necessary for any organizational change to succeed, as it avoids any doubt about the government's commitment to reform; Publicity about the advantages of the new system; There is need for cooperation between the public and private sector leading to better understanding of each other's problems and needs; There is need for good procurement training: to raise the skills of procurement staff and to familiarize suppliers with the requirements of the reformed system; There is need for good procurement legislation: both primary legislation and secondary implementing legislation; and also the need for establishment of a central public procurement office for overall policy making and supervision of public procurement in the country.

## **Funding**

The study also found out that respondents were in agreement that payments for deliveries are processed urgently as indicated by a mean of 1.68 and a standard deviation of 1.66; that the registration process in order to participate in AGPO is straightforward and clear as shown by a

mean of 1.85; a standard deviation of 0.70; that Public entities provide a conducive environment for other respondents participation and bidding for AGPO as shown by a mean of 2.13 and a standard deviation of 0.97; that funding from uwezo fund to fulfill the orders as indicated by a mean of 2.30 and a standard deviation of 1.07; that Uwezo officials conduct themselves professionally and ethically as shown by a mean of 2.03 and a standard deviation of 1.03; that Respondent accept partial deliveries hence partial payments as shown by a mean of 1.93 and a standard deviation of 0.92 and finally that tenders are structured to allow participation by special groups as shown by a mean of 1.93 and a standard deviation of 1.02.

The respondents were neutral that the *uwezo* oversight committees is supportive as shown by a mean of 2.55; a standard deviation of 1.78 and that payment process by the public entity is prompt and free of bureaucracy as shown by a mean of 2.53 and a standard deviation of 1.11. The study revealed that, According to (PPOA, 2006) funding is very critical in the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya. The study concludes that access to public sector contracts by smaller entities is often seen as a problem, at national and global level, for many in the sector. While sustaining development impacts is key, it is the majority at grassroots that accelerate and sustain poverty reduction efforts (Gichure, 2007), hence the need to target the rural poor to achieve overall economic growth by funding them to be able to access public procurement

### **Training**

The study found out that respondents were in agreement that there is need for good procurement training to raise skills as indicated by a mean of 1.70 and a standard deviation of 0.82; that there is insufficient training in procurement law for persons involved in the procurement functions as shown by a mean of 1.98 and a standard deviation of 1.03; that there is need for training and capacity building as shown by a mean of 2.38 and a standard deviation of 0.87; the study also found out that training is given to improve skills and ability to participate in AGPO as shown by a mean of 2.18 and a standard deviation of 0.96; that There has to be support from highest political levels as shown by a mean of 2.23 and a standard deviation of 1.03 and that the Training to the special groups on how to bid for government contracts is provided as shown by a mean of 2.40 and a standard deviation of 1.19.

According to Vinnova (2009) he suggested that this staff competence includes technical competence of the innovation as well as competence to manage the procurement process. This whole process is usually left to procurement professionals. However, in many cases, the procurers are not the users of the innovation so may not fully understand the need of innovation. This may result in the production of a tender specification that does not satisfy the needs of the innovation.

The study further revealed that majority of the employees in the procurement department were not members to any procurement professional body e.g. CIPS, that had no working knowledge of other languages other than English thus limiting their potential in global procurement, most of the staff members are experienced indicated by the majority age, they are poorly remunerated as professionals, most don't have motivation in terms of promotions and in-house training and seminars are not often conducted. Most of the respondents agree that staff training competency affects quality of innovative goods and services to a moderate extent.

Lawson and Squire (2006) did a research and established that purchasers with high skills and knowledge have a significant impact on financial performance and operational efficiency in terms of quality improvement, design and reduction of lead times. This was similarly supported by studies done by Rothwell and Zegveld (1981), where they stated that whereas relatively little in-house competence is needed when procuring off-the shelf goods for the lowest possible price, greater competence of procurers is required to encourage suppliers to innovate.

### **Information**

The study revealed that respondents were in agreement that Entity offers sufficient information to the special groups about AGPO program as indicated by a mean of 1.73 and a standard deviation of 0.88; that AGPO beneficiaries have approached the entity for tenders as shown by a mean of 1.83; a standard deviation of 0.84; that Public entities provide a conducive environment for other respondents participation and bidding for AGPO as shown by a mean of 2.13 and a standard deviation of 0.97; that All three categories of AGPO beneficiaries, youth, women and persons living with disabilities have submitted bids as indicated by a mean of 2.23 and a standard deviation of 0.95; that retrieving records for review purposes is slow, time consuming and even for the files made available, some records pertaining to fulfillment of the procurement process were incomplete, limiting the review scope as shown by a mean of 2.43 and a standard deviation of 0.90; that improved information techniques mostly through the internet for buying goods and services modern quality standards and business practices as shown by a mean of 2.35 and a standard deviation of 1.08; that Primary sources of information for these groups on what is to be awarded is the tender notices placed in the newspapers only as shown by a mean of 2.33 and a standard deviation of 0.98 and that the we have invited special interest groups to bid every quarter as shown by a mean of 1.95 and a standard deviation of 1.04.

The study further revealed Uninformed inefficient government suppliers provide poor value to their national government, and are unlikely to engage in any meaningful private sector trading partnerships in the era of global competition Zwicker, & Ringheim, (2004). But given the financial constraints faced by some of the procuring entities, these notices are generally posted only once Ogada et al (2008).

### Regression Analysis

In this study a multiple linear regression model was implemented to identify the relationship between the four independent variables and the dependent variable which is the challenges affecting the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya. The researcher applied the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) to code, enter and compute the measurements of the multiple regressions for the study.

### Coefficient of determination

Coefficient of determination explains the extent to which changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the change in the independent variables or the percentage of variation in the dependent variable (access to government procurement opportunities by special groups in Kenya) that is explained by all the four independent variables (Legal Framework, Funding, training and Information).

The four independent variables that were studied, explain only 66.1% of the access to government procurement opportunities as represented by the R<sup>2</sup>. This therefore means that other factors not studied in this research contribute 33.9% of the access to government procurement opportunities. Therefore, further research should be conducted to investigate the other factors (33.9%) on the access to government procurement opportunities.

**Table 1: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.813	0.661	0.163	0.68567

### Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

In trying to test the significant of the model, the study used ANOVA. From table 1 the significance value is 0.036 which is less than 0.05 thus the model is statistically significant in predicting how legal framework, funding, training and information on the challenges affecting the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya. The F critical at 5% level of significance was 2.895. Since F calculated (value =1.992) is greater than the F critical, this shows that the overall model was significant.

**Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	5.445	4	1.361	2.895	0.036
	Residual	16.455	35	0.470		
	Total	21.900	39			

Multiple Regression Analysis

As per the SPSS generated as shown in the equation

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \varepsilon \text{ become:}$$

$$Y = 0.576 + 0.010 X_1 + 0.116X_2 + 0.427X_3 + 0.044X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where Y is the dependent variable (accesses to government procurement opportunities), X1 is the Legal Framework, X2 is Funding variable and X3 is Training, X4 is the Information. According to the regression equation established, taking all factors into account (Legal Framework, Funding, training and Information) constant at zero, the accesses to government procurement opportunities will be 0.576. The data findings analyzed also shows that taking all other independent variables at zero, a unit increase in legal framework will lead to a 0.010 increase in the access to government procurement opportunities; a unit increase in funding will lead to a 0.116 increase in the access to government procurement opportunities; a unit increase in training will lead to a 0.427 increase in access to government procurement and a unit increase in information will lead to a 0.044 increase in access to government procurement opportunities. This infers that Human Resource Capacity contribute more to the adoption of social media in the provision of extension services in Kenya.

At 5% level of significance and 95% level of confidence; legal framework showed a 0.009 level of significant; funding showed a 0.044 level of significant; training showed a 0.003 level of significant and information showed a 0.030 level of significant. The significance value is 0.036 which is less than 0.05 thus the model is statistically significant in predicting how legal framework, funding, training and information affect the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya. The F critical at 5% level of significance was 2.040. Since F calculated is greater than the F critical (value = 2.895), this shows that the overall model was significant.

**Table 3: Coefficients(a)**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	0.576	0.443		1.302	0.021
	Legal Framework	0.010	0.114	-0.014	-0.090	0.009
	Funding	0.116	0.121	0.149	0.960	0.044
	Training	0.427	0.134	0.469	3.193	0.003
	Information	0.044	0.126	-0.051	-0.348	0.030

### Conclusions

The study concludes that legal framework has a duty to facilitate in the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya. Legal framework can be seen to contribute to public good by defending, protecting and promoting human rights. The study concludes that both primary legislation and secondary implementing legislation are looked upon; and there is establishment of a central public procurement office for overall policy making and supervision of public procurement in the country. The study also concludes that Kenyan government is very critical in funding the disadvantaged groups i.e people with disabilities, youth and women to play in the big-ticket leagues of public procurement as they may not have the financial wherewithal Owino J (2013). The study also concludes that there are a host of financial instruments being offered by various institutions, including local purchase order (LPO) financing and invoice discounting, the Uwezo Fund and the youth and women enterprise fund. Moreover, the study concludes that legal framework has a duty to facilitate in the implementation of access to government procurement opportunities for Special Interest groups in Kenya. The study also concludes that good training in procurement will raise the skills of the procurement staff and to familiarize suppliers with the requirements of the reformed system. The study concludes that training and capacity building to public entities will ensure compliance with the directive to be provided. From the findings a conclusion that training improves skills and ability of the persons with disabilities, women and youth to participate in AGPO. The study also concludes that the right information to the special groups on AGPO will be very helpful in enabling them secure government contracts. The study concludes that retrieving records for review purposes was slow, time consuming and even for the files made available, some records pertaining to fulfillment of the procurement process were incomplete, limiting the review scope. The study also concludes that Primary source of information for special groups on what is to be

awarded is the tender notices placed in the newspapers only and improved operating ICT systems and applications will cover all aspects of procurement

### **Recommendations**

On training of Procurement staff the study recommends innovation with high social returns on investment; however, because it involves risks and uncertainties the volume of investment in innovation procurement is sub-optimal. The study recommends training Public procurers who can help in the development of an effective and efficient SME sector by providing appropriate opportunities for SMEs which are mostly run by special groups to demonstrate their skills and capabilities, including the purchase of goods and services which allows SMEs to develop and demonstrate innovative goods and services. The study recommends that there is need for good training to solve the inability to translate procurement law and regulations into everyday language, so that management sees and understands the impact to their compliance; inadequate records management and filing systems, Musa et al, (2011). On Legal framework the study recommends that there should be cooperation between the public and private sector leading to better understanding of each other's problems and needs; there should be good procurement legislation: both primary legislation and secondary implementing legislation; and also the need for establishment of a central public procurement office for overall policy making. The study recommends for good training in procurement law for the persons involved in the procurement related functions. On communication of tender notices to special groups and public procurers, the study recommends that there should sufficient communication and coordination between the user departments and Procurement Unit on procurement planning and implementation and improvements in information access can enhance trade prospects by making these suppliers more acceptable vendors to global business partners. The study recommends that there is need to target the rural poor to achieve overall economic growth by funding them to be able to access public procurement since development efforts that center on sustainability must target the grassroots majority.

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