

**KOFORIDUA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY SCIENCE**



**IMPACT OF SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES IN THE  
HEALTH INDUSTRY: A CASE OF EASTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL,  
KOFORIDUA**

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## STUDENT'S DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this submission is our original work towards the Bachelor of Technology (BTech) in Procurement and Supply Chain Management. To the best of my knowledge, it doesn't contain anything that has been published before by another person or that has been approved for the awarding of any university degree, with the exception of the instances in which the text properly acknowledges other authors.

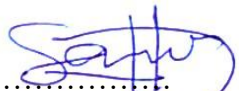
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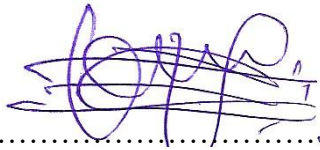
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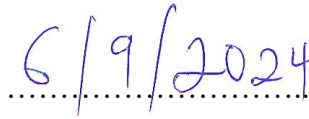
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## SUPERVISOR'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby attest that the supervision of this research was conducted in compliance with the project work supervision rules established by the university.



**DR. ISHAWU MUMUNI**



**DATE**

## **DEDICATION**

The Almighty God is the one to whom we first and foremost commit this study.

Additionally, we would want to thank our parents for all of their support during our schooling including their time, resources, and attention.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, we give thanks to the All-Powerful God for bestowing upon us the ability to perform this study as well as the substance and gift of life.

We sincerely thank our project supervisor, Dr. Ishawu Mumuni, for his understanding, direction, and support during our research as well as for his insightful remarks, critiques, and criticism that helped us stay on task. He was willing to help at all time.

Additionally, we appreciate Eastern Regional Hospital providing us this information.

To our parents for their financial assistance as well as their counsel and encouragement.

Lastly, we would want to express our gratitude to everyone who helped and encouraged us but whose names we haven't mentioned here.

## ABSTRACT

Sustainable procurement practices have emerged as a vital strategy for organizations worldwide, aiming to address environmental, social, and economic concerns within their sustainable procurement practices.

The study's objective was to assess Ghana's health industry's use of sustainable procurement methods.

The study also aim to ascertain sustainable procurement practices, evaluate their impact, and investigate the obstacles associated with sustainable buying practices. Eastern Regional Hospital served as the case study for the study. A descriptive survey approach yielded a sample size of 25 respondents for the study. With the use of statistical packages for social sciences (SPSSv20.0), the data was analysed after being gathered through questionnaires.

According to the report, the company uses sustainable procurement methods, which benefits the hospital.

The findings suggest that sustainable procurement practices positively impact the hospital's operations. Notable effects include a reduction in operational costs, improved environmental outcomes, and enhanced efficiency in the procurement process. However, challenges such as higher initial costs and limited supplier availability were also identified.

Efforts should be made to identify and collaborate with more suppliers who offer sustainable products, ensuring that the hospital has access to a wider range of options.

The conclusion reached was that the hospital should be considering sustainable procurement as it lowers operating costs and harmonizes sustainability requirements. Given the benefits of sustainable procurement, it was suggested that hospitals keep using these methods of sourcing. To reduce the negative impact of sustainable activities, the hospital needs to implement steps.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.0 Introduction**

Sustainable procurement practices have emerged as a vital strategy for organizations worldwide, aiming to address environmental, social, and economic concerns within their supply chain operations. Within the healthcare industry, the adoption of sustainable procurement practices holds particular significance due to its potential to improve public health outcomes, promote environmental sustainability, and ensure long-term economic viability. This chapter will include background of the study, problem of the study as well as the objectives of the study. The chapter further describes the research questions, significance of the study, scope of study, limitation of study and organization of study.

### **1.1 Background of the study**

The healthcare industry, characterized by its substantial environmental footprint, significant resource consumption, and intricate supply chain dynamics, has increasingly recognized the imperative of integrating sustainability principles into its operations (Jourdan et al., 2013). Sustainable procurement practices, which encompass considerations of environmental, social, and economic factors throughout the procurement process, have emerged as a strategic approach for healthcare organizations to address these challenges while simultaneously enhancing their overall sustainability performance. The Eastern Regional Hospital

in Ghana stands as a pivotal hospital within the country's healthcare landscape, serving as a primary provider of essential medical services to the local community.

Like many healthcare facilities in developing countries, the Eastern Regional Hospital faces a myriad of challenges, including limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, and pressing environmental concerns. Against this backdrop, the adoption of sustainable procurement practices presents an opportunity to not only mitigate environmental impacts but also improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance the quality of patient care. However, despite the growing recognition of the importance of sustainable procurement in healthcare, there remains a dearth of empirical research examining its implementation and impact within real-world healthcare settings, particularly in developing countries such as Ghana. Existing literature primarily comprises theoretical frameworks and conceptual discussions, emphasizing the potential benefits of sustainable procurement practices in terms of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and long-term economic viability (Carter & Rogers, 2008). To address this gap, this study seeks to investigate the impact of practicing sustainable procurement within the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana. By conducting a comprehensive analysis of the hospital's procurement processes, stakeholder perspectives, and sustainability performance indicators, the research aims to provide empirical insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating sustainable procurement practices into healthcare operations.

Furthermore, the study aims to contribute to the broader academic discourse on sustainable procurement in the healthcare industry, particularly in the context of developing countries. Through its focus on a real-world case study in Ghana, the research endeavours to offer practical recommendations for healthcare organizations seeking to enhance their sustainability performance through procurement practices. Ultimately, by examining the specific dynamics and challenges faced by the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana, this study aims to contribute to the advancement of sustainable procurement practices in the healthcare industry, thereby fostering positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

## **1.2 Problem statement**

Despite the increasing recognition of the importance of sustainable procurement practices in enhancing environmental stewardship, promoting social responsibility, and ensuring long-term economic viability within the healthcare industry, there remains a notable gap in empirical research examining the implementation and impact of sustainable procurement practices within real-world healthcare settings, particularly in developing countries such as Ghana. Existing literature primarily comprises theoretical frameworks and conceptual discussions, emphasizing the potential benefits of sustainable procurement practices (Carter & Rogers, 2008). However, there is a scarcity of empirical evidence regarding the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating sustainable procurement practices into healthcare operations, particularly within the context of resource-constrained environments like the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana.

This gap in research represents a critical knowledge deficiency, hindering the ability of healthcare organizations to effectively implement sustainable procurement practices and optimize their sustainability performance. Consequently, there is a pressing need for empirical studies that examine the specific dynamics and challenges faced by healthcare facilities in developing countries like Ghana, such as financial constraints, infrastructure limitations, and regulatory barriers, in the context of sustainable procurement practices.

By addressing this gap in the literature and conducting a comprehensive analysis of the impact of practicing sustainable procurement within the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable procurement implementation in a real-world healthcare setting. Furthermore, the research seeks to offer practical recommendations for healthcare organizations seeking to enhance their sustainability performance through procurement practices, thereby contributing to the advancement of sustainability goals within the healthcare industry.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The core objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of practicing sustainable procurement practices in the health industry in Ghana using the Eastern Regional Hospital as a case study. Specifically, the following objectives are targeted to be achieved.

1. To analyse the extent to which the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana has integrated sustainable procurement practices into its procurement processes.
2. To evaluate the impact of practicing sustainable procurement on the environmental, social, and economic performance of the Eastern Regional Hospital.
3. To identify the key factors influencing the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement practices within the Eastern Regional Hospital, including organizational culture, stakeholder engagement, and resource availability.

#### **1.4 Research questions**

To achieve the objectives stated above, the following questions would be asked.

1. To what extent has the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana integrated sustainable procurement practices into its procurement processes?
2. What are the environmental, social, and economic impacts of practicing sustainable procurement on the operations and performance of the Eastern Regional Hospital?
3. What are the key challenges and opportunities encountered in the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement practices within the Eastern Regional Hospital, and how can these challenges be addressed to maximize the benefits of sustainable procurement?



## **1.5 Significance of the study**

The significance of studying the impact of practicing sustainable procurement practices in the health industry, specifically within the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana, extends beyond the confines of academic research. This study holds several important implications for various stakeholders, including healthcare organizations, policymakers, environmental advocates, and the broader community:

1. **Improved Environmental Stewardship:** By examining the integration of sustainable procurement practices within the Eastern Regional Hospital, this study contributes to enhancing environmental stewardship within the healthcare industry. Understanding the environmental impacts of procurement decisions can help healthcare facilities reduce their carbon footprint, minimize waste generation, and conserve natural resources, thereby contributing to global sustainability goals.
2. **Enhanced Social Responsibility:** Sustainable procurement practices not only benefit the environment but also uphold social responsibility by promoting ethical sourcing, fair labour practices, and community engagement. Through this study, stakeholders gain insights into how sustainable procurement can support local communities, promote social equity, and improve the well-being of healthcare workers and patients.
3. **Financial Viability and Operational Efficiency:** Implementing sustainable procurement practices can yield significant cost savings and operational efficiencies for healthcare organizations. By analysing the economic impacts of

sustainable procurement within the Eastern Regional Hospital, this study provides valuable insights into the financial benefits of adopting sustainable practices, such as reduced procurement costs, improved supply chain resilience, and enhanced long-term financial sustainability.

4. **Policy Implications and Best Practices:** The findings of this study can inform policymakers and healthcare leaders about the effectiveness of sustainable procurement practices in improving healthcare delivery and sustainability performance. By identifying key success factors and barriers to implementation, the study offers practical recommendations for policymakers to develop supportive regulatory frameworks and incentives that encourage the adoption of sustainable procurement practices across the healthcare sector.
5. **Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building:** Through knowledge dissemination and sharing of best practices, this study contributes to building institutional capacity and fostering learning within the healthcare industry. By highlighting the experiences and lessons learned from the Eastern Regional Hospital case study, healthcare practitioners, managers, and procurement professionals can gain valuable insights into the strategies and approaches for integrating sustainability into procurement decision-making processes.

In summary, the significance of studying the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry, particularly within the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana, lies in its potential to drive positive change, foster sustainable development, and improve the overall well-being of communities and ecosystems. By advancing

our understanding of the intersection between sustainability and healthcare procurement, this study paves the way for more informed decision-making and transformative actions that benefit both present and future generations.

### **1.6 Scope of the study**

The scope of this final project work encompasses a comprehensive examination of the impact of practicing sustainable procurement practices within the health industry, with a specific focus on the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana. The study will investigate various dimensions of sustainable procurement, including environmental, social, and economic aspects, and their influence on the operations and performance of the hospital.

Key components of the scope of study include:

1. **Analysis of Sustainable Procurement Practices:** The study will analyse the procurement processes and practices currently employed by the Eastern Regional Hospital, focusing on their alignment with sustainability principles. This analysis will encompass the sourcing of goods and services, supplier selection criteria, contract management, and supplier relationship management.
2. **Evaluation of Environmental Impact:** The research will assess the environmental impact of practicing sustainable procurement within the Eastern Regional Hospital. This evaluation will include the reduction of carbon emissions, energy consumption, waste generation, and the use of environmentally friendly materials and products.

3. **Assessment of Social Impact:** The study will examine the social impact of sustainable procurement practices on stakeholders within and beyond the hospital, including healthcare workers, patients, suppliers, and local communities. This assessment will consider factors such as labour rights, community engagement, diversity, and inclusion.
4. **Examination of Economic Implications:** The research will investigate the economic implications of sustainable procurement practices on the financial performance and operational efficiency of the Eastern Regional Hospital. This analysis will include cost savings, efficiency gains, risk mitigation, and long-term financial sustainability.
5. **Identification of Key Factors and Challenges:** The study will identify the key factors influencing the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement practices within the Eastern Regional Hospital, as well as the challenges encountered in this process. Factors such as organizational culture, stakeholder engagement, resource availability, and regulatory requirements will be examined.
6. **Development of Recommendations:** Based on the findings of the study, practical recommendations will be developed to enhance the integration of sustainable procurement practices within the Eastern Regional Hospital and other healthcare organizations in similar contexts. These recommendations will aim to address identified challenges and maximize the benefits of sustainable procurement.

Overall, the scope of this final project work encompasses a holistic examination of sustainable procurement practices within the health industry, using the Eastern Regional Hospital in Ghana as a case study. Through a multidimensional analysis, the study aims to provide valuable insights into the impact of sustainable procurement on environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and contribute to the advancement of sustainable procurement practices within the healthcare sector.

### **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

The researchers anticipated that numerous challenges arose during the research preparation process. Firstly, there may be insufficient funding to carry out the project, which involved printing study materials. Secondly, the researchers may run into the issue of insufficient materials available at the library. It takes time since the activities may need the researcher to skip courses to write a document, and combining regular studies with the preparation of research is difficult.

### **1.8 Organization of the study.**

There are five primary chapters in the research structure. These comprise the introduction, methodology, literature review, data analysis and discussions, conclusions, and recommendations.

Chapter1 consists of the introduction which captured the background of the study, the statement of the problem, research objectives, the scope of study, and organization of the study.

Chapter two (2) comprises of the literature review which is a review of the current literature that highlights the objectives of the research.

Chapter 3 presents the methodology, the research approach followed by the case study used in the research and the limitation of the study.

Chapter 4 denotes the empirical findings from the information gathered from the questionnaire.

Chapter 5 sums up all the output of the analysis and offers the readers with a comprehensive conclusion and recommendations.

### **1.9 Definition of terms**

These terms should be known to aid in the evaluation of the study.

1. **Sustainable Procurement:** The process of acquiring goods, services, and works in a manner that considers environmental, social, and economic factors to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
2. **Procurement Practices:** The systematic approach and methods employed by organizations to source, purchase, and manage goods, services, and works necessary for their operations.
3. **Health Industry:** The sector encompassing organizations, institutions, and professionals involved in the provision of medical services, healthcare products, and pharmaceuticals aimed at promoting health and treating illnesses.

4. Sustainability: The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, involving the balanced consideration of economic, environmental, and social dimensions.
5. Environmental Impact: The effects of procurement activities on the natural environment, including resource depletion, pollution, waste generation, and carbon emissions.
6. Social Impact: The influence of procurement practices on stakeholders within and beyond the organization, including employees, communities, suppliers, and society at large, in terms of social equity, labour rights, and community development.
7. Economic Impact: The financial consequences of sustainable procurement practices on organizations, including cost savings, efficiency gains, and long-term economic viability.
8. Eastern Regional Hospital: A specific healthcare facility located in the eastern region, serving as the focal point of the case study, where sustainable procurement practices are examined in the context of its operations and impact.
9. Case Study: An in-depth analysis of a particular subject, such as an organization, project, or phenomenon, typically conducted to understand its dynamics, challenges, and outcomes within a specific context.
10. Stakeholders: Individuals, groups, or organizations that have an interest or are affected by the procurement decisions and activities of the healthcare facility,

including patients, staff, suppliers, government agencies, and local communities.

11. Triple Bottom Line: A framework for evaluating organizational performance that considers three dimensions: economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social equity, aiming to achieve sustainable outcomes.
12. Green Procurement: A subset of sustainable procurement focused specifically on environmentally friendly purchasing practices, including the selection of products and suppliers with reduced environmental impact.
13. Supply Chain: The network of entities involved in the production, distribution, and delivery of goods and services, including suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and logistics providers, which are integral to procurement processes in the healthcare industry.
14. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA): A methodology used to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with all stages of a product's life cycle, from raw material extraction to end-of-life disposal or recycling, providing insights for sustainable procurement decision-making.
15. Certification and Standards: Voluntary or mandatory guidelines, criteria, and certifications established by regulatory bodies, industry associations, or standards organizations to promote and assess sustainable procurement practices, such as ISO 20400 or LEED certification.



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **2.1 Introduction**

The opinions and suggestions that various experts have shared about the research on attaining organizational success in the health sector through sustainable procurement methods are included in this chapter. It goes over the historical justifications for sustainable buying practices. The conceptual framework, empirical literature, theoretical review, conceptual framework, and chapter summary are all included in this chapter.

#### **2.2 Conceptual Review**

This study provides a comprehensive conceptual review of sustainable procurement practices in the healthcare industry, with a specific focus on the Eastern Regional Hospital. This chapter aims to explore the theoretical underpinnings, frameworks, and key concepts related to sustainable procurement and its impact on organizational performance and sustainability within the healthcare sector.

##### **2.2.1 Definition of sustainable procurement**

Define sustainable procurement as the process of acquiring goods, services, and works while considering environmental, social, and economic factors to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## 2.2.2 Principles of sustainable procurement

Sustainable procurement, often termed green purchasing or eco-procurement, has emerged as a pivotal strategy for organizations aiming to align their purchasing practices with broader sustainability objectives. It involves integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations into procurement processes to mitigate negative impacts on the planet and society while maximizing long-term value creation. In this essay, we delve into the fundamental principles underpinning sustainable procurement, drawing insights from scholarly literature and industry best practices.

The first principle of sustainable procurement revolves around '**environmental stewardship**'. This principle emphasizes the importance of minimizing adverse environmental impacts associated with the acquisition of goods and services. According to Jenkins and Orsato (2011), environmental stewardship entails selecting products with lower carbon footprints, reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste generation, and favouring suppliers with strong environmental management systems. By prioritizing eco-friendly alternatives and fostering resource efficiency, organizations can contribute to environmental preservation and mitigate climate change effects.

The second principle centres on '**social responsibility**' within the supply chain. Sustainable procurement involves promoting fair labour practices, respecting

human rights, and advancing social equity throughout the procurement process. As highlighted by Dubey et al. (2018), social responsibility encompasses ensuring safe working conditions, respecting labour rights, and fostering diversity and inclusion within supplier networks. By prioritizing socially responsible suppliers, organizations can uphold ethical standards, support community development, and enhance stakeholder trust and reputation.

The third principle underscores the importance of **‘economic viability’**.

In sustainable procurement endeavours. While environmental and social considerations are paramount, sustainable procurement must also deliver economic value and viability. As noted by Reuter et al. (2020), economic viability involves optimizing costs, enhancing efficiency, and maximizing long-term value creation. Organizations should consider total cost of ownership, lifecycle costs, and return on investment when evaluating sustainable procurement options. By balancing economic considerations with environmental and social goals, organizations can achieve financial resilience and competitiveness in the marketplace.

The fourth principle emphasizes **‘transparency and accountability’** throughout the procurement process. Transparency involves openly disclosing information about procurement practices, supplier performance, and sustainability metrics to stakeholders. Accountability entails taking responsibility for procurement decisions, adhering to ethical standards, and addressing any adverse impacts arising from procurement activities. According to Seuring and Müller (2008), transparency

and accountability foster trust, facilitate stakeholder engagement, and drive continuous improvement in sustainable procurement practices.

The fifth principle focuses on ‘**collaboration and engagement**’ with stakeholders across the supply chain. Sustainable procurement requires collaboration among internal departments, suppliers, customers, and other stakeholders to drive collective action and achieve shared sustainability goals. By engaging suppliers in dialogue, sharing best practices, and collaborating on innovation, organizations can build resilient supply chains, enhance supply chain visibility, and promote mutual learning and improvement (Walker et al., 2010).

In conclusion, sustainable procurement is guided by a set of core principles that emphasize environmental stewardship, social responsibility, economic viability, transparency and accountability, and collaboration and engagement. By adhering to these principles, organizations can navigate the complex landscape of sustainable procurement, mitigate risks, seize opportunities, and create long-term value for stakeholders and society.

### **2.2.3 Types of sustainable procurement**

Sustainable procurement represents a strategic approach to sourcing goods and services that integrates environmental, social, and economic considerations into purchasing decisions. This multifaceted approach encompasses various types of sustainable procurement practices, each with its unique focus and objectives. In this

study, we explore several key types of sustainable procurement, drawing insights from scholarly literature and practical examples.

One prominent type of sustainable procurement is '**green procurement**'. Green procurement prioritizes the purchase of environmentally friendly products and services that minimize negative impacts on the environment. This may include selecting products made from sustainable materials, reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste generation, and favouring suppliers with strong environmental credentials (Dubey et al., 2018). By integrating green procurement practices, organizations can reduce their carbon footprint, conserve natural resources, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

Another important type of sustainable procurement is '**socially responsible procurement**'. Socially responsible procurement focuses on sourcing goods and services from suppliers that uphold fair labour practices, respect human rights, and promote social equity. This involves ensuring safe working conditions, fair wages, and equal opportunities for all workers within the supply chain (Reuter et al., 2020). By prioritizing socially responsible suppliers, organizations can support ethical labour standards, improve livelihoods, and foster inclusive economic development.

'**Ethical sourcing**' is also a key aspect of sustainable procurement. Ethical sourcing involves selecting suppliers and products that adhere to ethical business practices, including transparency, integrity, and accountability. This may include avoiding

suppliers associated with unethical practices such as child labour, forced labour, or environmental degradation (Seuring & Müller, 2008). By embracing ethical sourcing principles, organizations can uphold their corporate values, mitigate reputational risks, and build trust with stakeholders.

**‘Local sourcing’** is another type of sustainable procurement that focuses on purchasing goods and services from local suppliers or producers. Local sourcing aims to support the local economy, reduce transportation emissions, and foster community development. By sourcing locally, organizations can strengthen local supply chains, create jobs, and promote resilience in times of crisis (Walker et al., 2008). Additionally, local sourcing may enhance traceability and accountability within the supply chain, leading to greater transparency and trust.

**‘Fair trade procurement’** is a type of sustainable procurement that emphasizes sourcing products certified as fair trade. Fair trade procurement ensures that producers receive fair prices for their goods, adhere to sustainable farming practices, and invest in community development initiatives. By prioritizing fair trade products, organizations can support small-scale producers, promote social justice, and empower marginalized communities (Jenkins & Orsato, 2011). Fair trade procurement aligns with principles of social responsibility and ethical sourcing, contributing to broader sustainability objectives.

In conclusion, sustainable procurement encompasses various types of practices aimed at integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations into purchasing decisions. Green procurement, socially responsible procurement, ethical sourcing, local sourcing, and fair-trade procurement are among the key types of sustainable procurement practices. By embracing these practices, organizations can advance their sustainability goals, mitigate risks, and create long-term value for stakeholders and society.

#### **2.2.4 Importance and benefits of sustainable procurement**

Sustainable procurement has emerged as a critical strategy for organizations seeking to align their purchasing practices with broader sustainability goals. It involves integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations into procurement processes to mitigate negative impacts on the planet and society while maximizing long-term value creation. In this essay, we explore the importance and benefits of sustainable procurement, drawing insights from scholarly literature and practical examples.

One of the primary reasons for the importance of sustainable procurement is its potential to ‘**reduce environmental impact**’. Traditional procurement practices often prioritize cost and efficiency without considering the environmental consequences of sourcing decisions. However, sustainable procurement considers factors such as resource conservation, pollution reduction, and carbon emissions, thereby minimizing harm to the environment (Dubey et al., 2018). By selecting

ecofriendly products, optimizing packaging, and promoting sustainable transportation practices, organizations can significantly reduce their ecological footprint and contribute to environmental sustainability.

Another key importance of sustainable procurement lies in its ability to ‘**enhance social responsibility**’ within supply chains. Sustainable procurement practices prioritize sourcing from suppliers that uphold fair labour practices, respect human rights, and promote social equity. This involves ensuring safe working conditions, fair wages, and equal opportunities for all workers, regardless of their background or circumstances (Reuter et al., 2020). By prioritizing socially responsible suppliers, organizations can support ethical labour standards, improve livelihoods, and foster inclusive economic development, thereby fulfilling their corporate social responsibility obligations.

Moreover, sustainable procurement is important for ‘**risk mitigation and resilience**’. In an increasingly interconnected global economy, organizations face various risks related to supply chain disruptions, regulatory compliance, reputational damage, and stakeholder expectations. By embracing sustainable procurement practices, organizations can mitigate these risks by diversifying their supplier base, reducing dependency on finite resources, and enhancing transparency and traceability within the supply chain (Seuring & Müller, 2008). Sustainable procurement also promotes long-term resilience by fostering innovation, resource



efficiency, and adaptive capacity in the face of evolving environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Furthermore, sustainable procurement offers ‘**financial benefits and competitive advantages**’ to organizations. While there may be initial costs associated with transitioning to sustainable procurement practices, such as investing in eco-friendly products or supplier audits, the long-term benefits far outweigh the expenses. Research suggests that sustainable procurement can lead to cost savings through improved resource efficiency, reduced waste generation, and enhanced operational efficiency (Walker et al., 2008). Moreover, organizations that adopt sustainable procurement practices can gain a competitive edge by attracting environmentally conscious customers, investors, and partners, thereby enhancing their brand reputation and market positioning.

In conclusion, sustainable procurement is of paramount importance for organizations looking to achieve environmental, social, and economic sustainability in their operations. By prioritizing sustainable procurement practices, organizations can reduce environmental impact, enhance social responsibility, mitigate risks, and gain financial benefits and competitive advantages. Embracing sustainable procurement is not only a strategic imperative but also a moral and ethical obligation in today's interconnected and resource-constrained world.

### 2.2.5 Effects of sustainable procurement

Sustainable procurement practices have far-reaching effects on organizations, supply chains, and society. By integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations into procurement processes, sustainable procurement initiatives can drive positive outcomes across various dimensions. In this essay, we explore the effects of sustainable procurement, drawing insights from scholarly literature and empirical studies.

One of the primary effects of sustainable procurement is the ‘**promotion of environmental sustainability**’. By prioritizing eco-friendly products, reducing resource consumption, and minimizing waste generation, sustainable procurement practices help organizations reduce their ecological footprint and contribute to environmental conservation (Dubey et al., 2018). Research suggests that sustainable procurement initiatives can lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, water usage, and waste generation throughout the product life cycle (Reuter et al., 2020). By adopting sustainable procurement practices, organizations can play a crucial role in mitigating climate change, preserving natural resources, and protecting ecosystems for future generations. Furthermore, sustainable procurement initiatives have profound ‘**social impacts**’ within supply chains and communities. By promoting fair labour practices, respecting human rights, and fostering diversity and inclusion, sustainable procurement practices contribute to social equity and well-being (Seuring & Müller, 2008). For example, sourcing from suppliers that provide safe working conditions,

fair wages, and opportunities for marginalized groups can improve livelihoods, reduce inequality, and enhance community development (Walker et al., 2008). Sustainable procurement also helps organizations build stronger relationships with suppliers, employees, customers, and other stakeholders by demonstrating a commitment to ethical business practices and social responsibility.

Moreover, sustainable procurement initiatives can have **‘positive economic** effects for organizations and society. While there may be initial costs associated with transitioning to sustainable procurement practices, such as investments in ecofriendly products or supplier audits, the long-term benefits often outweigh the expenses (Dubey et al., 2018). Research suggests that sustainable procurement can lead to cost savings through improved resource efficiency, reduced waste generation, and enhanced operational efficiency (Reuter et al., 2020). Moreover, organizations that adopt sustainable procurement practices can gain a competitive edge by attracting environmentally conscious customers, investors, and partners, thereby enhancing their brand reputation and market positioning.

In addition to environmental, social, and economic effects, sustainable procurement initiatives can also drive **‘innovation and collaboration’** within supply chains. By fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and collaborating on sustainability initiatives, organizations can spur innovation, drive efficiency gains, and create shared value for all stakeholders (Walker et al., 2008). Sustainable procurement also promotes transparency, accountability, and trust within supply chains, leading to stronger relationships and more resilient partnerships over time.

In a nutshell, sustainable procurement practices have profound effects on organizations, supply chains, and society at large. By promoting environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and economic viability, sustainable procurement initiatives drive positive outcomes across various dimensions.

Moreover, sustainable procurement fosters innovation, collaboration, and resilience within supply chains, paving the way for a more sustainable and prosperous future.

### **2.2.6 Challenges of sustainable procurement**

While sustainable procurement offers numerous benefits, organizations often face significant challenges in implementing and integrating sustainable practices into their procurement processes. These challenges stem from various factors, including resource constraints, complexity of supply chains, and resistance to change. In this essay, we explore the key challenges of sustainable procurement, drawing insights from scholarly literature and practical experiences.

One of the primary challenges of sustainable procurement is **‘limited availability of sustainable products and suppliers**. Many industries still lack a comprehensive range of environmentally friendly and socially responsible products and services, making it difficult for organizations to find suitable alternatives (Dubey et al., 2018). Additionally, some suppliers may lack the capacity or willingness to adhere to sustainability standards, further limiting the options available to organizations seeking to adopt sustainable procurement practices (Reuter et al., 2020). Addressing this challenge requires collaboration between organizations and suppliers to

promote sustainable innovation, develop new products, and expand the market for sustainable goods and services.

Another significant challenge is **‘cost considerations**. While sustainable procurement can lead to long-term cost savings and value creation, there may be initial costs associated with transitioning to sustainable practices (Seuring & Müller, 2008). For example, eco-friendly products may be more expensive than conventional alternatives, and investments in supplier audits or certification programs can incur additional expenses (Walker et al., 2008). Organizations operating under tight budgets or financial constraints may be hesitant to invest in sustainable procurement initiatives without clear evidence of return on investment. Overcoming this challenge requires organizations to adopt a strategic approach to sustainable procurement, considering both short-term costs and long-term benefits.

Furthermore, **‘complexity of supply chains’** poses a significant challenge to sustainable procurement efforts. Modern supply chains are often global, interconnected, and multifaceted, involving numerous suppliers, subcontractors, and intermediaries (Reuter et al., 2020). Ensuring transparency, traceability, and compliance with sustainability standards throughout the supply chain can be challenging, particularly in industries with opaque or fragmented supply chains. Additionally, managing relationships with diverse suppliers and stakeholders requires effective communication, collaboration, and coordination (Dubey et al.,

2018). Organizations must invest in supply chain visibility, data management systems, and stakeholder engagement initiatives to address this challenge effectively.

Moreover, **‘resistance to change’** within organizations can impede the adoption of sustainable procurement practices. Employees, managers, and other stakeholders may be resistant to change due to inertia, lack of awareness, or perceived barriers to implementation (Seuring & Müller, 2008). Resistance to change may manifest in various forms, including scepticism about the benefits of sustainability, reluctance to deviate from established procurement practices, and fear of disruption or inconvenience. Overcoming resistance to change requires organizational leadership, communication, and capacity building to create a culture of sustainability and foster buy-in from all stakeholders (Walker et al., 2008).

Sustainable procurement faces several challenges that organizations must overcome to realize its full potential. Addressing challenges related to limited availability of sustainable products, cost considerations, complexity of supply chains, and resistance to change requires strategic planning, collaboration, and investment in resources and capabilities. By tackling these challenges effectively, organizations can unlock the benefits of sustainable procurement and drive positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

## **2.3 Theoretical Review**

Sustainable procurement practices have garnered increasing attention in the healthcare sector due to their potential to promote environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and economic efficiency. This theoretical review aims to explore the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry, focusing on the Eastern Regional Hospital as a case study.

In recent years, sustainable procurement has emerged as a strategic approach for healthcare organizations to align their procurement processes with broader sustainability goals. Sustainable procurement in the health industry involves sourcing goods, services, and works that prioritize patient care, minimize environmental impact, promote fair labour practices, and ensure cost-effectiveness and transparency.

The importance of sustainable procurement in healthcare is underscored by the sector's significant environmental footprint, reliance on resources, and impact on public health. By adopting sustainable procurement practices, healthcare organizations can achieve various benefits, including improved patient outcomes, reduced healthcare-associated infections, cost savings through resource efficiency, and enhanced reputation and stakeholder trust.

However, implementing sustainable procurement practices in healthcare settings poses several challenges, including limited availability of sustainable products, budget constraints, complex supply chains, and resistance to change. Overcoming

these challenges requires collaboration among stakeholders, capacity building, policy development, and innovation in procurement processes.

Theoretical frameworks such as the triple bottom line approach and institutional theory provide valuable insights into evaluating the impact of sustainable procurement practices in healthcare organizations. By adopting a holistic perspective that considers economic, environmental, and social dimensions, healthcare organizations can assess the value of procurement decisions and prioritize sustainability objectives aligned with patient care, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.

The Eastern Regional Hospital serves as a case study to examine the impact of sustainable procurement practices in a healthcare setting. Through this case study, we will assess the current state of sustainable procurement practices, identify barriers to implementation, and evaluate the impact on organizational performance and sustainability goals.

By examining theoretical principles, challenges, and frameworks, this theoretical review aims to contribute to the understanding of how sustainable procurement practices can enhance environmental, social, and economic outcomes in the health industry, with implications for organizational performance and public health.

## **2.4 Empirical literature**

Numerous empirical studies have examined the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the healthcare sector, shedding light on their implications for



organizational performance, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.

In the context of the Eastern Regional Hospital, these empirical findings provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of sustainable procurement initiatives and their influence on healthcare delivery and sustainability outcomes.

Research by Jenkins and Orsato (2011) investigated sustainable procurement practices in the health sector, emphasizing the importance of integrating environmental and social considerations into procurement processes. Their case study of Melbourne's North-East Health highlighted the positive outcomes of sustainable procurement, including cost savings, reduced environmental impact, and enhanced stakeholder engagement. By prioritizing sustainable procurement practices, healthcare organizations can achieve significant benefits while contributing to broader sustainability goals.

Similarly, Reuter et al. (2020) conducted an empirical analysis of sustainable procurement portfolio management, focusing on supplier sustainability risks and procurement savings. Their research underscored the importance of managing supplier sustainability risks effectively to optimize procurement outcomes and drive organizational performance. By adopting proactive approaches to supplier management and sustainability risk mitigation, healthcare organizations can minimize disruptions, improve supplier relationships, and realize cost savings while advancing sustainability objectives.

Furthermore, Dubey et al. (2018) examined the antecedents of green procurement adoption in manufacturing supply chains, providing insights into the factors influencing the adoption of sustainable procurement practices. Although their study focused on manufacturing supply chains, the findings are relevant to the healthcare sector, highlighting the role of organizational culture, stakeholder pressure, and regulatory requirements in driving green procurement initiatives. Healthcare organizations can leverage these insights to overcome barriers to sustainable procurement adoption and foster a culture of sustainability within their procurement processes.

Drawing on these empirical studies and others, the empirical literature provides robust evidence of the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry. By synthesizing and analysing these empirical findings, this study aims to assess the effectiveness of sustainable procurement practices at the Eastern Regional Hospital, identify opportunities for improvement, and generate actionable recommendations for enhancing sustainability outcomes in healthcare procurement.

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework for this study seeks to establish a structured understanding of the impact of sustainable procurement practices within the health industry, with a specific examination of the Eastern Regional Hospital. Drawing upon established literature and empirical evidence, the framework delineates key

variables and their interrelationships that influence the adoption and outcomes of sustainable procurement practices in healthcare settings.

At its core, the framework identifies three primary domains of influence:

1. **Organizational Factors:** This domain encompasses variables such as organizational culture, leadership commitment, and stakeholder engagement within the Eastern Regional Hospital. These factors are pivotal in shaping the hospital's approach towards sustainability and procurement practices (Eccles et al., 2014; Henriksen et al., 2017).
2. **External Environment:** This domain includes regulatory requirements, industry standards, and market dynamics that impact the hospital's sustainable procurement initiatives. Compliance with regulations and alignment with industry best practices are critical drivers in shaping procurement strategies (Siddiqui et al., 2018).
3. **Internal Processes and Practices:** Within this domain lie mediating variables like supply chain collaboration, capacity building efforts, and performance measurement mechanisms. Collaborative relationships with suppliers, along with organizational capabilities in training and performance evaluation, influence the implementation and effectiveness of sustainable procurement practices (Walker et al., 2008; Srivastava & Srivastava, 2018).

These domains interact dynamically, shaping the hospital's procurement decisions and, consequently, its environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

By exploring the interplay between these variables, the framework aims to

provide insights into how sustainable procurement practices can be optimized to enhance overall sustainability performance within the Eastern Regional Hospital and potentially inform broader industry practices.

## **2.6 Chapter summary**

Chapter two of this project work delved into the extensive body of literature surrounding the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry, with a specific focus on the Eastern Regional Hospital. The literature review aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of key concepts, theoretical frameworks, empirical findings, and practical implications relevant to the topic.

The chapter commenced by defining sustainable procurement and elucidating its significance within the healthcare sector. It highlighted the multifaceted nature of sustainable procurement, encompassing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic efficiency. The importance of sustainable procurement in healthcare was underscored by its potential to enhance patient care, mitigate environmental impact, and achieve cost savings.

Theoretical frameworks such as the triple bottom line approach, institutional theory, and life cycle assessment were explored to elucidate the conceptual underpinnings of sustainable procurement practices. These frameworks provided valuable insights into the economic, environmental, and social dimensions of sustainable procurement and their interplay within healthcare organizations.

Empirical literature was reviewed to examine the tangible impacts of sustainable procurement practices in healthcare settings. Studies highlighted the positive outcomes associated with sustainable procurement, including cost savings, environmental footprint reduction, stakeholder engagement, and organizational performance improvement. Additionally, case studies and research findings provided evidence of the effectiveness of sustainable procurement initiatives in enhancing sustainability outcomes and operational efficiency in healthcare organizations.

Challenges and barriers to sustainable procurement adoption in the healthcare sector were also discussed, including resource constraints, regulatory complexities, and resistance to change. These challenges underscored the need for strategic approaches, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building to overcome barriers and promote sustainable procurement practices effectively.

Overall, Chapter two synthesized a vast array of literature to provide a comprehensive overview of the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry, setting the stage for empirical investigation within the context of the Eastern Regional Hospital. By integrating theoretical insights and empirical evidence, the chapter laid a robust foundation for understanding the complexities and implications of sustainable procurement practices in healthcare settings.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter covers the methods, strategies, and approaches that the researchers employed in carrying out their investigation. It emphasizes the following: Research design, Sources of data collection, Data collection techniques, Data collection procedure, Population, Sample size, Sampling technique and Data analysis.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design is the blueprint for conducting a study, detailing the methods for collecting, measuring, and analysing data to address specific research questions or hypotheses. It provides a structured approach to ensure the validity and reliability of the results.

According to Creswell (2018), "Research design is the plan or proposal to conduct research, involving the intersection of philosophy, strategies of inquiry, and specific methods" (p. 5).

This research seeks to adopt a quantitative method to evaluate sustainable procurement practices with reference to Eastern Regional Hospital, Koforidua. A case study approach was used to obtain information concerning the study under consideration paying attention to a particular element, organisation etc.

Furthermore, this study employs a **descriptive research design**. Descriptive research is appropriate for providing a comprehensive overview of current practices and their impacts (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2019). By focusing on a single case study, this design allows for an in-depth understanding of sustainable procurement at the Eastern Regional Hospital.

### **3.3 Sources of Data Collection**

There are two main sources of data that this study employs namely, primary and secondary sources of data.

#### **3.3.1 Primary Data Collection**

The employees of the chosen unit at Eastern Regional Hospital served as the study's main source of data. According to Krueger and Neuman (2016), employing primary data has greater benefits since empirical research demonstrates that it is more dependable because it originates from the original sources and is gathered specifically for the investigation.

#### **3.3.2 Secondary Data Collection**

Textbooks and journal papers that have been published are the secondary sources of data that the researchers used in this study. This source is significant since it will enable the student researchers to get some essential data regarding the sustainable procurement practices used by businesses.

### **3.4. Data Collection Technique**

For this study, the data collection technique will be the use of structured questionnaires. This approach is chosen for its efficiency in gathering quantifiable data from many respondents, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the current sustainable procurement practices and their impacts.

#### **3.4.1 Questionnaire**

Questionnaires are advantageous due to their ability to collect standardized data, facilitating comparison and statistical analysis. They enable the collection of data from diverse respondents, including procurement staff, administrative personnel, and healthcare providers, within a relatively short timeframe. Furthermore, questionnaires ensure anonymity, encouraging honest and candid responses, which is crucial for the reliability of the data (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The questionnaire will include both closed-ended questions, to obtain quantifiable data on specific aspects of sustainable procurement practices, and open-ended questions, to capture respondents' insights and experiences. The survey will be distributed electronically and in paper format to accommodate the varying preferences of participants. The collected data will be analysed using descriptive statistics to summarize the current state of sustainable procurement practices and their perceived impacts on operational efficiency, cost management, and service quality at the Eastern Regional Hospital.



### **3.5 Data Collection Procedure**

An introductory letter was taken from the head of department's office (Procurement and Supply Science Department) and would be submitted to the case study area (the Procurement Department at Eastern Regional Hospital). Upon approval of the request by the heads of department, the necessary means of collecting data were employed to get the required information.

### **3.6 Population of the Study**

The study population refers to the entire group of individuals or entities that are the focus of a research project, from which a sample will be drawn for data collection and analysis. It includes all elements that meet the criteria set for a specific research question.

According to Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2019), the study population is "the full set of cases from which a sample is taken" (p. 274).

The study population for this research will comprise various stakeholders at the Eastern Regional Hospital who are directly or indirectly involved in procurement processes and can provide valuable insights into the impact of sustainable procurement practices.

The sections chosen includes the staff of the Procurement department, Healthcare providers, administrative personnel, suppliers, stores departments , finance departments etc.

The target population of the study was 55.

### **3.7 Sample Size**

Sample size refers to the number of observations or respondents included in a study from the larger population. It determines the amount of data collected and influences the accuracy and reliability of the research findings.

According to Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2019), "Sample size is the total number of units or respondents selected from the population for the study."

Determining an appropriate sample size is crucial for ensuring the validity and reliability of the research findings. The sample size should be large enough to provide statistically significant results while being manageable within the constraints of time, budget, and resources.

A sample size of twenty-five(25) was chosen for the research study. Thus, the purposive sampling was adopted.

### **3.8 Sampling Technique**

The selection of an appropriate sampling technique is crucial for ensuring that the sample chosen for the study accurately represents the larger population. Given the diverse nature of stakeholders involved in the procurement processes at the Eastern Regional Hospital, a single sampling method will be employed to ensure comprehensive coverage and representativeness.

## **1. Purposive Sampling**

Purposive sampling involves deliberately selecting participants who possess specific characteristics or have relevant knowledge or experience related to the research topic. Within each stratum identified through stratified random sampling, purposive sampling will be employed to select individuals who are directly involved in procurement processes or have extensive knowledge of sustainable procurement practices at the Eastern Regional Hospital. This will ensure that the selected sample comprises individuals who can provide valuable insights into the impact of sustainable procurement practices. The use of purposive sampling allows for the selection of individuals with the most relevant expertise and experience pertaining to sustainable procurement practices. By utilizing this technique, the study aims to gather comprehensive and representative data that accurately reflects the perspectives and experiences of stakeholders involved in procurement processes at the hospital. By employing a purposive sampling, this research project aims to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings regarding the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry, specifically at the Eastern Regional Hospital.

### **3.9 Data Analysis**

SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) will be utilized to analyse the quantitative data collected for this research project. The analysis will focus on understanding the impact of sustainable procurement practices at the Eastern Regional Hospital, specifically in terms of operational efficiency, cost management, and service quality. Descriptive statistics will be calculated to summarize the central tendency, dispersion, and distribution of quantitative variables related to sustainable procurement practices. Responses that were obtained on each question were presented in the form of written extracts. In analysing the data, tables with frequencies and percentages were used.

### **3.10 Profile of the Study Area**

#### **History and Activities of the Organization**

Eastern Regional Hospital, Koforidua (ERHK) was established in 1926 and it is a secondary level referral facility for the entire eastern regional and also doubles as Municipal Hospital for the New Juaben Municipal with over 180, 000 inhabitants. There have been two major structural additions to it since its establishment. The first was in 1972 when an administration Block, Dental Unit, Laboratory Departments, Adult OPD with Medical Records, Internal Medicine, Kids, Surgical and Maternity Wards with theatre were added. In 1988 Catering, Main Theatre, Xray Department, Laundry and Mortuary Departments were included. There has

been no major rehabilitation or additional structures since then. The 356 bed hospital compared to 314 in 2004 now serve as a referral point for about sixteen (16) district hospitals in the Eastern Region. The hospital offers the following services: Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Internal Medicine including anti – retroviral Therapy,

Paediatrics, Surgery, Dental, Ophthalmology, Physiotherapy, Ear, Nose and Throat, Laundry, Mortuary and Primary Healthcare Service. Eastern Regional Hospital, Koforidua (ERHK) is a Ghana Health Service Facility which is a not-for-profit healthcare organization. We strive to satisfy our numerous customers, both patients and visitors. The hospital was thus adjudged as the Best Regional Hospital in Ghana at the Ministry of Health, 2013 Health Awards held on 5th November, 2013 at the State House.

#### **Mission statement of the Organization**

To provide comprehensive secondary level in-patient and out-patient healthcare service of high quality in a patient friendly atmosphere by a motivated, contented and competent staff in a well maintained hospital infrastructure.

#### **Vision statement of the Organization**

Our vision is “to become a leading medical centre of excellence in quality healthcare provision in Ghana”

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the analysis of data collected through questionnaires distributed to respondents at the Eastern Regional Hospital. The data are analysed using various graphical representations and statistical methods to highlight the respondents' perspectives on sustainable procurement practices. The chapter is organized into sections that address the demographic characteristics of the respondents, the implementation of sustainable procurement practices, the impact of these practices on hospital operations, and the challenges faced.

#### **4.1 Demographic Characteristics**

The demographic characteristics of the respondents provide background information that helps to break down responses into more meaningful categories. The characteristics considered include gender, highest educational qualification, and years of work experience.

**Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Variables	Options	Response	
		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	19	76
	Female	6	24
	Total	25	100
Highest educational qualification	HND	2	8
	First Degree	14	56
	Master's Degree	9	36
	Total	25	100
Working Experience	Less than 5 years	9	36
	5-10 years	10	40
	More than 10 years	6	24
	Total	25	100

**Source: Fieldwork, September 2024**

This table summarizes the demographic data of respondents, indicating that the majority (76%) 19 of respondents are males. The highest educational qualification varies, with a significant proportion holding Bachelor's degrees 14 (56%). Work experience ranges, with 9 (36%) of respondents having less than 5 years of experience.

## 4.2 Implementation of Sustainable Procurement Practices

This section examines the extent to which sustainable procurement practices are implemented at the Eastern Regional Hospital. Key areas of focus include supplier evaluation, procurement of eco-friendly products, life cycle costing and the integration of sustainability criteria in purchasing decisions.

**Table 4.2: Sustainable Procurement Practices at Eastern Regional Hospital**

### Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<b>Use of Eco-friendly Products.</b> Is there use of environmentally friendly products.	25	1	5	3.10	1.392
<b>Supplier Evaluation Criteria.</b> Are suppliers evaluated based on sustainability criteria	25	1	5	3.70	1.185
<b>Reduction of Waste in Procurement.</b> To what extent are waste elimination in procurement adhered to	25	1	5	3.00	1.000
<b>Life cycle costing.</b> Considering total environmental and economic cost of product throughout their lifecycle	25	1	5	3.25	1.303
Valid N (listwise)	25				

**Source: Fieldwork, September 2024**

The results indicate a moderate to high implementation of sustainable procurement practices, with an average mean score of (3.00) across the various indicators. This



suggests that the hospital is moderately committed to sustainability in its procurement activities.

**4.3 Impact of Sustainable Procurement Practices on Hospital Operations** This section analyses the impact of sustainable procurement practices on the operations of the Eastern Regional Hospital, focusing on aspects such as cost reduction, environmental benefits, reduced risk of waste and operational efficiency. **Table 4.3:**

**Impact of Sustainable Procurement Practices on Hospital**

**Operations**

**Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Reduction in Operational Costs	25	1	5	3.59	1.392
Improvement in Environmental Outcomes	25	1	5	3.80	1.185
Enhancement of Operational Efficiency	25	1	5	2.70	1.380
Sustainable procurement activities have helped reduced the risk of waste	25	1	5	3.11	1.303
Valid N (listwise)	25				

**Source: Field Survey, September, 2024**

The findings show that sustainable procurement practices positively impact the hospital's operations, particularly in reducing costs and improving environmental outcomes.

#### 4.4 Challenges of Implementing Sustainable Procurement Practices

This section discusses the challenges faced by the Eastern Regional Hospital in implementing sustainable procurement practices, such as supplier availability, cost implications, complex regulatory requirements and institutional support.

**Table 4.4: Challenges of Sustainable Procurement Practices**

##### Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
High Cost of Sustainable Products	25	1	5	3.60	1.393
Limited Supplier Options	25	1	5	3.72	1.396
Lack of Institutional Support	25	1	5	3.11	1.303
Complex regulatory requirements	25	1	5	3.50	1.225
Valid N (listwise)	25				

**Source: Field Survey, September, 2024**

The results highlight significant challenges, with high costs and limited supplier options being the most prominent.

#### **4.5 Summary of the Chapter**

In summary, this chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the data collected on sustainable procurement practices at the Eastern Regional Hospital. The findings suggest a moderate implementation of sustainable procurement practices, which positively impact hospital operations, though challenges such as cost and supplier availability persist.

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.0 Introduction**

This final chapter summarizes the key findings of the study, provides conclusions based on the data analysis, and offers practical recommendations for improving sustainable procurement practices in the health industry, specifically at the Eastern Regional Hospital in the preceding chapters.

The study sought to identify sustainable procurement practices, effect of sustainable procurement practices and examine the challenges of sustainable procurement practices in Eastern Regional Hospital.

**5.1 Summary of Findings**

This section highlights the main findings related to the implementation and impact of sustainable procurement practices at the hospital.

**5.1.1 Sustainable Procurement Practices at Eastern Regional Hospital**

The study found that the Eastern Regional Hospital has implemented several sustainable procurement practices, such as sourcing eco-friendly products, evaluating suppliers based on sustainability criteria, and minimizing waste in procurement processes. However, the degree of implementation varies, with some areas needing improvement.

### **5.1.2 Impact of Sustainable Procurement Practices on Hospital Operations**

The findings suggest that sustainable procurement practices positively impact the hospital's operations. Notable effects include a reduction in operational costs, improved environmental outcomes, and enhanced efficiency in the procurement process. However, challenges such as higher initial costs and limited supplier availability were also identified.

### **5.1.3 Challenges of Sustainable Procurement Practices**

The study identified several challenges faced by the hospital in implementing sustainable procurement practices. These include the higher costs of sustainable products, limited supplier options, and a lack of institutional support for sustainable initiatives.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The study concludes that while the Eastern Regional Hospital has made progress in adopting sustainable procurement practices, there are still significant challenges that need to be addressed. The positive impact on operational efficiency and environmental outcomes demonstrates the potential benefits of these practices, but overcoming the barriers to full implementation will require strategic planning and support.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

- **Increase Awareness and Training:** The hospital should invest in training programs to raise awareness among staff about the importance of sustainable procurement practices and how to implement them effectively.
- **Expand Supplier Base:** Efforts should be made to identify and collaborate with more suppliers who offer sustainable products, ensuring that the hospital has access to a wider range of options.
- **Cost Management Strategies:** The hospital should explore ways to manage the higher initial costs associated with sustainable products, such as negotiating bulk purchase discounts or seeking external funding or grants.
- **Strengthen Institutional Support:** It is essential for the hospital's management to develop and enforce policies that support sustainable procurement and allocate resources to ensure its successful implementation.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:** The hospital should regularly assess the effectiveness of its sustainable procurement practices and make necessary adjustments to improve their impact on both operations and the environment.

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**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**KOFORIDUA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY SCIENCE**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Students from Koforidua Technical University pursuing a Bachelor of Technology in Procurement and Supply Chain Management are doing a study that includes these questionnaire. The study aims to explore; **The Impact Of Sustainable Procurement Practices In The Health Industry : “A case of Eastern Regional Hospital, Koforidua”**. We promise to keep your answers to these surveys completely private and to use them solely for academic purposes.

**SECTION A: BIO DATA**

1. Gender:  Male  Female
2. Age:  20–30 years  30–40 years  40–50 years  50-60 years
3. Highest Educational level:  Diploma  HND  Degree   
Degree  PHD
- f) Others (Please Specify).....
4. How long have you worked with the organization?  
 Less than one year  1-5 years  6-10 years  11-15 years  
 Over 15 years
5. Please state the department you belong to.....

**SECTION B: Integration of sustainable procurement practices**

Please tick (√) on the options to indicate your level of agreement on the integration of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry. The following abbreviations will be used: **1–Strongly Agree, 2– Agree, 3–Neutral, 4– Disagree, and 5–Strongly Disagree.**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>To analyse the extent to which sustainable procurement practices have been integrated into the hospital's procurement processes</b>					
The hospital has integrated environmental sustainability criteria into its procurement processes					
The hospital prioritizes suppliers who follow sustainable practices					
Sustainable procurement policies are well-defined and communicated within the hospital					
The hospital regularly monitors and evaluates its procurement processes for sustainability					
Employees are trained to implement sustainable procurement practices					

**SECTION C: Impact of Sustainable Procurement Practices**

7. Please tick (√) on the options to rate the impact of sustainable procurement practices in the health industry. The following abbreviations will be used: **1– Strongly Agree, 2– Agree, 3– Neutral, 4– Disagree, and 5–Strongly Disagree.**

<b>To evaluate the impact of practicing sustainable procurement on the hospital's performance.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Sustainable procurement has led to cost savings in the hospital's operations.					
The hospital's environmental footprint has been reduced due to sustainable procurement practices.					
Sustainable procurement has improved the hospital's reputation within the community					
The hospital has seen an improvement in patient satisfaction due to sustainable procurement efforts.					
The social responsibility of the hospital has been enhanced through sustainable procurement					

**SECTION D: Factors Influencing Adoption and Implementation of Sustainable**

**Procurement**

Please tick (√) on the options to indicate the factors influencing the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement in the health industry. The following abbreviations will be used: **1– Strongly Agree, 2– Agree, 3– Neutral, 4– Disagree, and 5– Strongly Disagree.**

<b>To identify key factors influencing the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement practices.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
The hospital’s organizational culture supports sustainable procurement practices					
Stakeholder engagement is strong in the implementation of sustainable procurement.					
Adequate resources (financial, human, technological) are available for sustainable procurement					
Lack of knowledge and training on sustainable procurement is a barrier to its implementation.					
External pressure influence the hospital’s adoption of sustainable procurement practices					

**SECTION E: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustainable Procurement**

Please tick (√) on the options to indicate level of agreement on challenges and opportunities in sustainable procurement in the health industry. The following abbreviations will be used: **1– Strongly Agree, 2– Agree, 3– Neutral, 4– Disagree, and 5– Strongly Disagree.**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>To identify challenges and opportunities in the adoption and implementation of sustainable procurement.</b>					
The hospital faces significant challenges in adopting sustainable procurement due to financial constraints					
Resistance to change within the hospital hinders the adoption of sustainable procurement practices					
There are ample opportunities for collaboration with suppliers to enhance sustainability					
Government policies and incentives support sustainable procurement in the hospital					
There is potential for further improvement in the hospital’s sustainable procurement practices					

**Thank You**