

PERCEPTION AND PRACTICES OF ADDRESSING SUSTAINABILITY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCESS OF BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to assess the perception and current practices of addressing sustainability through public procurement. A semi structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data from 60 public sector procurement practitioners. The collected data were analyzed by using SPSS 17 version package. The highest proportion of the respondents was middle aged and involved in developing specification and tender document. They had a good level of perception on each aspect of sustainability. Adoption of life cycle costing, e-procurement process was not common in public sector. Procurement practices did not encourage SMEs, assessing environmental and social impacts before launching a high value tender, sustainable building design, health, safety and legal rights of workers. Organizations had no environmental management system and policy for cost saving. They rarely considered disposal issues. However, adequate competition and supplier profit in the tender were expected. Public procurement follows the principle of equality and avoids buying where child labor is used. Although there is no specific guideline, various sustainability criteria could be incorporated through specifications, contract clauses within the existing purview of public procurement rules. The study seeks to develop an emerging thought among policy makers to use procurement as strategic tool for sustainable development in Bangladesh.