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# STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT PRACTICES AND ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE: A STUDY OF MANUFACTURING FIRMS IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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## Abstract

The Nigerian manufacturing sector faces structural and operational challenges due to recent macroeconomic reforms, including petroleum subsidy removal, foreign exchange rate unification, and minimum wage increase, leading to cost-push inflation, reduced consumer purchasing power, and increased competition. This study investigates the impact of strategic procurement practices on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Employing a mixed-method research design, the study integrates both quantitative and qualitative approaches to leverage their respective strengths. A sample size of 250 respondents was determined using Taro Yamane's formula, and purposive sampling techniques were employed to select participants from ten manufacturing companies situated in Ilupeju and Ogba Industrial Estates, Lagos State. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and analyzed through descriptive statistics and regression modelling to assess the relationship between strategic procurement practices and manufacturing firm performance. The findings reveal that for every unit increase in strategic procurement practices, the performance of manufacturing firms improves by 0.168 units, underscoring the significant role of strategic procurement in enhancing operational efficiency, cost reduction, product quality, competitiveness, and profitability. The study recommends that manufacturing firms adopt advanced strategic procurement practices, including e-procurement, e-sourcing, e-auctions, advanced analytics, predictive technologies, and blockchain systems to monitor market trends effectively. Furthermore, firms should

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#### INTRODUCTION

Organizations with clear visions, missions, and objectives rely on effective policies, strategies, and resource management to achieve their goals. As open systems, organizations must maintain a balanced inflow and outflow of resources, which requires effective management of procurement a critical function that ensures the acquisition of goods and services to meet organizational needs. Procurement involves sourcing, negotiating, purchasing, and managing supplier relationships, aiming to deliver the right products at the right time, quantity, and price (Maeyangsari, 2023). Effective procurement practices enhance operational efficiency, reduce costs, and align with corporate goals. According to Lysons and Farrington (2020), procurement encompasses activities such as value analysis, supplier market research, contract administration, inventory control, and logistics. Strategic procurement, as highlighted by Mebrate and Shumet (2024), maximizes value by ensuring efficient resource utilization (Rizanta & Arsanti, 2022). Akubuko et al. (2019) and Akubuko (2018) emphasize that strategic procurement practices are vital for organizational competitiveness, especially in dynamic markets like Lagos, Nigeria (Syariah, 2018).

Practices such as e-procurement and supplier relationship management drive operational efficiency and cost savings (Masheti, 2016). Moreover, strategic procurement aligns with broader organizational performance indicators, including productivity, cost reduction and compliance, which go beyond profitability alone (Oluwaseyi, 2016; Oduro et al., 2020). This research explores the role of strategic procurement practices in enhancing the performance of manufacturing companies in Lagos State, offering insights into their impact on efficiency, cost management, and competitiveness (Adolph, 2016). The manufacturing sector is a cornerstone of economic growth, driving productivity, job creation, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development. It serves as a critical revenue source for governments and plays a pivotal role in transforming economies. In Nigeria, manufacturing contributes significantly to non-import VAT (30%) and company income tax (26%), highlighting its importance in fiscal policy and economic development (Dhofier, 1982). Experiences from nations like China, Singapore, and India demonstrate the sector's potential to catalyze national economic progress. Despite its importance, Nigeria's manufacturing sector faces persistent underperformance(Safitri et al., 2022).

In 2023, it accounted for only 16.04% of the national nominal GDP (Alok, 2023), with alarming indicators of decline. The Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN) reported the closure of 767 firms, a capacity utilization drop to 56%, an interest rate exceeding 30%, and an unsold inventory valued at <del>N</del>350 billion. Real growth in the sector dwindled to 2.4%, compounded by challenges such as poor infrastructure, inadequate power supply, limited credit access, and competition from imports (Monoarfa, 2021).

Amid these structural and operational challenges, limited attention has been paid to strategic procurement as a critical determinant of manufacturing performance. The Nigerian business environment, shaped by recent macroeconomic reforms under President Bola Tinubu—including subsidy removal, currency unification, and increased minimum wage—has introduced cost-pushed inflation, eroded consumer purchasing power, and intensified competition. Despite these changes, many manufacturing firms cling to traditional procurement methods that fail to align with evolving corporate strategies, further undermining their competitiveness (HANIFAH, 2022). As turbulent market environments demand shorter product lifecycles, greater complexity in goods and services, and innovative supply chain management, procurement becomes increasingly critical. With procurement costs accounting for up to 70% of total production costs in some industries (Hong & Kwon, 2012; Mena et al., 2018), its strategic alignment is essential for sustaining organizational performance (Kasdi, 2016). This study, therefore, examines the effect of strategic procurement practices on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria's challenging and rapidly changing business environment.

This research provides Nigerian manufacturing firms with insights into how strategic procurement practices can improve performance, reduce costs, and enhance competitiveness in a volatile business environment. It highlights the role of modern techniques, such as e-procurement, in optimizing supply chains and driving growth. For

the government, the study offers policy recommendations to address infrastructural deficits, improve credit access, and reduce bureaucratic barriers, thereby boosting the sector's productivity, tax revenue, and job creation while fostering sustainable development. In terms of knowledge contribution, this research fills a gap by exploring the impact of strategic procurement on organizational performance in Nigeria's manufacturing sector, providing a foundation for further studies on procurement optimization and its role in economic growth and industrial policy (Prasetyaningrum et al., 2021).

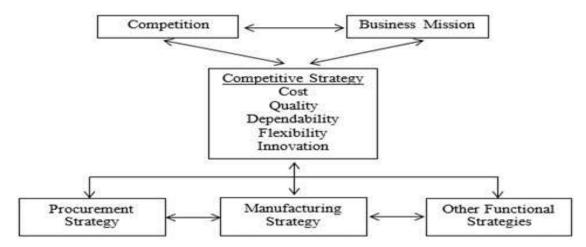
Agency Theory, developed by Jensen and Meckling, explains the relationship between two parties: the principal, who delegate authority and the agent, who acts on behalf of the principal (Panda & Leepsa, 2017). It assumes information asymmetry between the two parties, often leading to challenges such as self-interest and bounded rationality. This theory is relevant in analyzing buyer-supplier relationships by focusing on contracts that efficiently govern their interactions. It is based on the assumption that there is an imbalance of knowledge between the two parties, which often results in difficulties such as self-interest and restricted rationality. By concentrating on contracts that effectively manage the interactions between buyers and suppliers, this theory applies to the process of assessing buyer-supplier relationships (Whipple & Roh, 2010).

It offers a framework for understanding the dynamics of decision-making and managing risks in the processes of procurement. According to the Contingency Theory, which was first proposed by Fiedler in 1964, the efficiency of an organization is dependent on the degree to which its internal structures and external environmental circumstances are compatible with one another (Shala et al., 2021). According to Graetz and Smith (2010) and Van de Ven et al. (2013), it suggests that there is no universal best approach to management or organizational design. This is because the proper strategy is contingent on the environment in which it is implemented. According to Alexander et al. (2014), this theory has been extensively used in the field of sustainable supply chain management. It has been implemented in a variety of domains, including green operations, circular economy practices, and environmental cooperation. It highlights the need for businesses to adjust their structures and tactics to the ever-changing circumstances of the external environment to improve their performance and ensure.

Strategic procurement, also known as strategic sourcing, is the process of

planning to ensure that the goods and services needed to do business successfully are obtained on time as needed and on budget. Masiko (2013) Strategic procurement is the process of creating alignment and consistency of action that establishes the long range objectives and overall strategy or course of action by which procurement function fulfills its mission. It entails the transformation of an organization's mission, goals and objectives into measurable activities to be used to plan budget and manage the procurement function (Muwolya, 2019). Strategic procurement involves carefully optimizing everything from vendor selection, payment terms, vetting, contract negotiation and the purchase of goods and services. Strategic procurement involves carefully optimizing everything from vendor selection, payment terms, vetting, contract negotiation, and the purchase of goods and services (Mwangi, 2018).

The objectives of strategic procurement can be broadly divided into two; internal and external, the internal objectives includes; to maximize return on investment (ROI), increase efficiency, avoid over stocking and stock-out, implement strategic sourcing software, streamline procurement workflows and align the procurement guidelines and procedure with the corporate strategy of the organization. Many organizations start by setting smaller, measurable strategic procurement objectives. These objectives can be internally-focused (e.g., implement strategic sourcing software to streamline procurement workflows) or externally-focused (e.g., build long-term supplier relationships). Strategic procurement approach can help to minimize administrative effort needed to source goods/services, reduce total expenditure (incl. indirect spend), ensure continuity and quality of supply, reduce risk and cost by managing supplier relationships.



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Figure 1: The Relationship of Competitive Strategy and Procurement, Manufacturing and functional Strategy. Source: Shah and Hasan (2016).

Traditional procurement refers to a manual, paper-based approach to acquiring goods and services, characterized by sequential steps aimed at ensuring efficiency and effectiveness (Aminu et al., 2020). These steps typically include identifying needs, selecting vendors, negotiating terms, drafting contracts and fulfilling orders. However, its reliance on manual processes often results in inefficiencies, limited visibility into supplier performance, and slower decision-making.Modern procurement adopts advanced methods and leverages technology to address the limitations of traditional approaches. It integrates digital tools, data analytics and strategic practices to streamline operations, reduce costs, enhance supplier relationships, and drive value creation.

These modern procurement practices represent a shift from traditional methods, emphasizing efficiency, transparency, sustainability, and adaptability to meet the demands of dynamic business environments. Empirical ReviewSobhani et al. (2014) examined the strategic procurement and financial performance in Iranian manufacturing companies. Utilizing a cross-sectional explanatory design, the study examined the relationship between procurement practices and financial outcomes. The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between strategic procurement practices and financial performance of aligning procurement strategies with organizational goals to achieve better financial results.

Muswere (2020) investigated the impact of strategic procurement practices on firm performance at CBZ Bank, focusing on cost management, supplier integration, and early supplier involvement. The study demonstrated that strategic cost management, supplier integration, early supplier involvement, and supplier relationship management positively influence firm performance. Specifically, these practices were found to reduce procurement and operational costs, improve strategic cost management, and sustain competitive advantage. Ogeto and Thiong'o (2020) examined the relationship between strategic procurement practices and organizational performance in Kenya's construction and manufacturing industries, using data from 47 respondents in Allied Plumbers Limited. The study highlighted that strategic procurement practices, such as

supplier identification and selection, procurement negotiations, contract management, and inventory systems, significantly enhance organizational performance. However, it was noted that the delegation of procurement authority was rarely practiced, which could limit efficiency.

Owiti (2022) explored the influence of procurement procedures on manufacturing and construction project performance in Mombasa. The study found that strategic procurement approaches led to a 58.3% increase in project completion time compared to expected durations. While clients expressed dissatisfaction with project costs and timelines, they were satisfied with service quality and outcomes. The study recommended project management and contract management training for all personnel involved in procurement to address these challenges. Effa et al. (2023) investigated the relationship between strategic procurement initiatives and logistics performance in Nigeria. Employing an analytical cross-sectional and correlational design, the study revealed a strong positive correlation between procurement sustainability initiatives and logistics performance indicators.

Key practices, such as outsourcing, group purchasing, just-in-time systems, and supplier relationship management, were found to enhance logistics performance in areas like cost savings and operational efficiency. The study recommended adopting strategic procurement initiatives to drive logistics performance and organizational success. These studies collectively underscore the critical role of strategic procurement in enhancing organizational performance across diverse industries and contexts. They highlight the significance of cost management, supplier integration, and innovative procurement strategies in improving efficiency, reducing costs, and achieving sustainable competitive advantage.

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study adopted a mixed-method research design to combine the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The Taro Yamane (1967) formula was employed to calculate a sample size of 250 respondents, ensuring a statistically representative population. Purposive sampling techniques were used to select participants from ten manufacturing companies located in Ilupeju and Ogba Industrial Estates, Lagos State. This sampling approach ensured the inclusion of staff members with expertise and experience in organizational procurement processes. A structured

questionnaire, validated by two Professors in Business Administration and Supply Chain Management, was utilized for data collection. The questionnaire included items designed to measure strategic procurement variables, with responses captured using a five-point Likert scale to ensure clarity and consistency in data interpretation. Additionally, structured interviews were conducted with heads of the Purchasing, Stores, and Accounts departments to gather in-depth qualitative insights and enhance the validity of the findings. For data analysis, descriptive statistics, including frequency counts and percentages, were employed to analyze respondents' demographic information. A regression model was utilized to examine the relationship between the dependent variable (performance) and the independent variable (strategic procurement). The regression model is specified as follows:

 $Y=\beta 0+\beta 1X1+\epsilon Y=\beta_0+\beta_1X_1+\epsilon Y=\beta 0+\beta 1X1+\epsilon$ 

Where:

- YYY = Performance (dependent variable), β0β\_0β0 = Constant term
- $\beta 1\beta 1\beta 1 = Coefficient of the independent variable,$
- X1X\_1X1 = Strategic Procurement (independent variable)
- εεε = Error term

This methodological approach ensures robustness in identifying and interpreting the impact of strategic procurement practices on organizational performance in the Nigerian manufacturing sector.

## **Results and Discussion**

## Table 1

Gender of Respondents	5	
Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender:		
Male	170	68
Female	80	32
Total	250	100

## Table 2

Age Distributi	on of Respondents		
Age:	Frequency	Percentage	

18-30	55	22
31-40	80	32
41-50	45	18
51-60	60	24
61 and above	10	4
Total	250	100

# Table 3

Educational Qualification of Respondents

Educational Qualification:	Frequency	Percentage
Primary Sch. Cert	5	2
SSCE	20	8
OND/NCE	85	34
HND/BSC	125	50
MBA/MSC/PhD	15	6
Total	250	100

# Table 4

Working Experience of Respondents

Years of Experience	Frequency	Percentage
Below one year	75	30
1-5 years	92	36.8
6-10	45	18
11 years and above	38	15.2
Total	250	100

# Table 5

## Department of Respondents

Department	Frequency	Percentage
Procurement	105	42
Stores	86	34.4
Finance & Accounts	44	17.6
Administration	15	6
Total	250	100

**Research Question one:** What are the strategic procurement practices of manufacturing companies in Lagos, Nigeria?

Respondents were asked to identify and rank the strategic procurement practices in their firms.

# Table 6

Strategic procurement practices of manufacturing companies in Lagos, Nigeria

S/N	Strategic procurement practices	Frequency	Percentages
1.	Clear Procurement strategy and policy that aligns	15	6
	with the organization's goals and objectives		
2	Use advanced analytics and technology to optimize	10	4
	costs and reduce unnecessary spending		

3	Strategic sourcing	30	12	
4	Supplier relationship management	40	16	
5	Supply chain Risk management	35	14	
6	Outsourcing Non-Core Activities	60	24	
7	Cost-Benefit Analysis of procurements	10	4	
8	Just-in-Time (JIT) Procurement	25	10	
9	Supplier Performance Evaluation	20	8	
10	Use of E-Procurement Tools	5	2	
	Total	250	100	



The data presented in Table 6 and Figure 2 reveal significant gaps in the adoption of strategic procurement practices among the surveyed companies. Notably, only **6%** of respondents reported that their companies have a clear procurement strategy and policy aligned with organizational goals and objectives. Furthermore, the adoption of modern procurement tools such as **e-procurement** is alarmingly low at **2%**, and only **4%** of companies conduct cost-benefit analyses for procurement decisions or leverage advanced analytics and technology to optimize costs and minimize unnecessary expenditures. However, there is moderate adoption of specific strategic procurement practices. For instance, **12%** of respondents indicated that their companies engage in strategic sourcing, while **16%** reported the implementation of supplier relationship management (SRM) practices. Additionally, **14%** of companies manage supply chain

risks, suggesting a growing awareness of the importance of mitigating vulnerabilities in the procurement process. A relatively higher proportion of respondents (24%) indicated that their organizations outsource non-core activities, reflecting a focus on efficiency and cost reduction through specialization. Similarly, 10% of respondents employ Justin-Time (JIT) procurement, which aligns with efforts to streamline inventory management and reduce waste. The data suggest a critical need for Nigerian manufacturing firms to adopt a more holistic and technologically integrated approach to procurement. The limited adoption of core strategic practices, such as e-procurement and cost-benefit analysis, highlights potential inefficiencies and missed opportunities for cost optimization and competitive advantage. Conversely, the moderate uptake of practices like strategic sourcing and supplier relationship management suggests that firms are beginning to recognize the importance of aligning procurement strategies with broader organizational goals. This disparity underscores the need for capacity building, policy reforms, and investment in modern procurement systems to enhance operational performance and resilience in Nigeria's manufacturing sector.

**Research Question two:** What is the effect of strategic procurement on the performance of manufacturing companies in Lagos, Nigeria?

## Table 7

The effect of strategic procurement on the performance of manufacturing companies in Nigeria's unstable business environment.

SN	Strategic performan	procurement ce	and	manufacturing	companies	Mean	SD
1	In this cor	npany, our proc		nt is carefully plan et and corporate s		4.51	.502
2	•		• •	<sup>-</sup> Relationship Mai ove product qualit	-	4.38	.609
3	suppliers,		prices	ourcing to find th , and conduct cor cost.	0	4.16	.758
4	•	, ,		nt strategy that cking and stock-or	•	4.42	.567
5		gic procurement	•	ces of this compa	any enhance	4.07.	.796
	Overall					4.3	.646

The result presented in table 7 above, with the overall mean of 4.3 associated with a

standard deviation of 0.645 indicates that respondents appeared to consistently agree they are aware of Strategic procurement practices of their firms, that it enables them to align their procurement plan with their company's budget, strategy, enhance their supplier Relationship management, influences the firms' cost reduction, increase supply chain efficiency and ultimately contribute to Return on Investment (ROI). With a mean score of 4.3 out of five strategic procurement practices and standard deviation of 0.646, it indicate that strategic procurement is practiced minimally among manufacturing companies in Lagos, Nigeria.

# **Hypotheses Testing**

Ho1: Strategic procurement practices has no significant impact on the performance of

manufacturing firms in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Table 8

# Model 1 Summary

1 371 <sup>a</sup> 138 000 53877	Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	1	.371 <sup>a</sup>	.138	.000	.53877

a. Predictors: (Constant), Strategic Procurement

The model summary above shows the extent to which Strategic Procurement practices affect the performance of manufacturing firms in Lagos State, Nigeria. The coefficient of determination (R2 = 0.138) in the model summary shows that 13.8% of the variation observed in performance of manufacturing firms in Lagos State, Nigeria, is accounted **for by Strategic Procurement practices.** 

# Table 9

# ANOVA

Model	df	SS	MS	F	Sig
Regression	1	21.389	21.389	17.194	0.000*
Residual	23	28.611	1.244		
Total	24	50.000			

a. Predictor (constant) Strategic Procurement Practices

b. Depended variable: Performance of manufacturing firms

In the table 9 above, the Anova test indicate that the result is also statistically significant at the specified 0.05 level of significance because the p-value 0.000 is less than the level of significance 0.05 used for the study

## Table 10

Model		standardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig
	В	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.932	0.341	1.225	5.662	0.00
Strategic procurement practices	0.168	0.040	0.084	4.147	0.0

Regression Coefficients

The results presented in Table 10 indicate the regression equation derived from the analysis. The analysis results show that strategic procurement practices significantly impact the performance of manufacturing companies in Lagos. The regression equation, Y = f(X);  $Y = 1.932 + 0.168X_1$ , represents the relationship between the performance of manufacturing firms and strategic procurement practices. The constant (1.932) indicates the baseline performance of the company when strategic procurement is at zero, while the coefficient of  $X_1$  (0.168) indicates the rate of increase in performance for each unit increase in strategic procurement practices. The null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted, indicating that strategic procurement practices have a significant effect on the performance of manufacturing companies. The analysis confirms that strategic procurement practices are statistically significant in explaining the relationship between the performance of manufacturing firms and strategic procurement practices for manufacturing firms and strategic procurement practices are statistically significant in explaining the relationship between the performance of manufacturing firms and strategic procurement practices, with a p-value below the threshold of 0.05.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study examines the strategic procurement practices of manufacturing companies in Lagos, Nigeria, and their impact on organizational performance. Key practices include outsourcing non-core activities, supplier relationship management, and supply chain risk management. Other practices like strategic sourcing, cost-benefit analysis, just-in-time procurement, and supplier performance evaluation were ranked lower. The study also found that practices like clear procurement strategy aligned with organizational goals, use of advanced analytics and technology to optimize costs, and e-procurement tools were the least utilized. This highlights a gap in modern procurement

practices. This finding is consistent with previous studies Azambuja et al., (2014) and Hong and Kwon (2012) that emphasize the transformative role of technology in procurement efficiency.

The lack of alignment between procurement strategies and organizational goals underscores a potential barrier to achieving broader corporate objectives. Additionally, the underutilization of digital tools indicates that strategic procurement practices have not yet attained the level of operational efficiency and agility necessary for competitive advantage among Lagos-based manufacturing firms.

Findings related to research question two revealed that strategic procurement practices enable the alignment of procurement plans with organizational budgets and strategies, foster supplier relationship management, reduce costs, and enhance supply chain efficiency. Additionally, these practices contribute positively to Return on Investment (ROI). These findings align with the results of Owiti (2022) and Effa et al. (2023), which demonstrate that strategic procurement increases efficiency in manufacturing and construction industries. The ability of strategic procurement to integrate budgeting, supplier relationships, and cost control indicates its critical role in enhancing overall supply chain performance. However, the study highlights that without robust digital procurement systems and clear strategic alignment, organizations may struggle to fully capitalize on these benefits. The findings emphasize the need for manufacturing firms in Lagos to adopt modern procurement technologies and develop policies that align procurement functions with corporate objectives to maximize efficiency, agility, and profitability.

The implications of these findings suggest actionable recommendations for manufacturing companies to strengthen their procurement strategies. Prioritizing the adoption of digital tools, such as advanced analytics and e-procurement platforms, can optimize procurement processes and reduce unnecessary costs. Moreover, aligning procurement strategies with organizational goals will ensure that procurement activities directly contribute to broader corporate performance metrics. Finally, fostering stronger supplier relationships and managing supply chain risks will enhance resilience and operational continuity in the face of market uncertainties. This study, therefore, highlights both the opportunities and gaps within the strategic procurement practices of Lagos-based manufacturing firms, offering a pathway for enhanced operational performance and competitiveness.

#### CONCLUSION

The findings enhance the existing literature on procurement strategies and offer practical insights for industry practitioners and policymakers aiming to improve supply chain performance in emerging economies. It was recommended that for enhancing organizational performance in manufacturing firms through effective procurement strategies: Manufacturing firms should integrate digital procurement platforms, such as e-sourcing, e-auctions, and automated purchase order systems. This shift will enhance visibility, tracking, and reporting of procurement activities, leading to greater transparency, streamlined operations, and improved efficiency, Firms should utilize advanced analytics and predictive technologies to monitor market trends and forecast procurement needs accurately. Aligning procurement with production schedules will help reduce excess inventory, minimize stockouts, optimize costs, and eliminate unnecessary expenditures, ultimately enhancing financial performance, Manufacturing firms should actively engage suppliers in the early stages of product design and development. By collaborating with suppliers and sharing data, firms can drive cocreation, enhance innovation, and improve operational processes, leading to successful product and market outcomes.

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