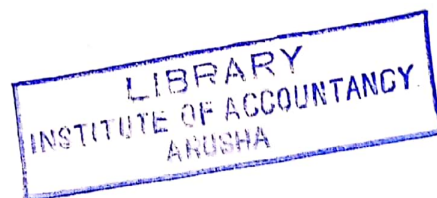


## ABSTRACTS

Today's healthcare providers face a series of operational challenges that can adversely impact the bottom line, these include availability of essential drugs and supplies, a growing uninsured population, rising operational costs, new technologies and procedures.

In response to these market challenges, many providers are finding an alternative on how to look at the supply chain, and how they can build or enhance their internal supply chain capabilities. Advanced supply chain operations can positively influence clinical outcomes, satisfaction to medical staff, satisfaction to patients and financial performance.

Achieving these types of results, however, requires that the provider take control of its supply chain strategy from the traditional supply chain partners and proactively manage the process moving forward. The primary objective of supply chains of 7 Rs might be attained at all times when ones talk about the optimal supply chain. ( The right products, right customers, right time, right place in the right condition) .This study tries to justify the supply chain management problems in public health facilities that ultimately affecting adversely in value chain of health services in Tanzania.



## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Arusha municipality in Tanzania with the aim of assessing the factors constraining the performance of women owned micro-enterprises (MEs) on the global supply chain with a specific focus on female entrepreneurs owning curio shops in the municipal. The study, which was a survey of women owners of curio shops, involved a total of 62 respondents. Data were collected by the use of questionnaires and through focus group discussion.

Particularly, the study paid attention on various factors that are considered to affect profitability, the ways through which factors like size of the initial capital, access to loan, working environment and level of education/training affect growth of women owned MEs. Besides, the study examined diversification strategies that are used by these female entrepreneurs in order to improve their logistics capabilities, the extent to which taxation, local governments' regulations and customs requirements affect growth and global supply chain management of women owned curio shops.

The findings of the study revealed that the performances of women owned curio shops were generally poor due to among other reasons, lack of enough initial capital, difficulties in accessing loans due to harsh conditions by most microfinance institutions (MFIs) and banks, poor working environment, seasonality of the business, lack of business education or training and customs requirements. Other constraining factors that were also identified include licensing procedures, local government bureaucracy procedures and information technology systems barriers.

The study recommended that Arusha municipal could improve the performance of women owned MEs especially curio shops by introducing a lending scheme with softer conditions that can be afforded by women owners of curio shops, providing business education in collaboration with Business Development Services (BDS) providers and encouraging women entrepreneurs to use other product/market strategies such as product development and market development in order to minimize risks associated with diversification strategy.

