MODERN EDUCATIONAL MODELS FOR TRAINING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SPECIALISTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract. Public procurement is essential for the efficient management of public resources and requires qualified specialists with modern professional competencies. This study examines innovative educational models, competency-based approaches, and international experiences in training public procurement professionals in higher education institutions. The findings emphasize that integrating digital technologies and practical training into university curricula can improve the quality of procurement education and support the development of transparent and effective procurement systems.

Keywords: public procurement, higher education, procurement education, competency-based learning, innovative teaching models, professional training.

Introduction. Public procurement is one of the most important mechanisms for ensuring the efficient use of public funds and supporting economic development. Governments around the world allocate significant financial resources through

procurement systems to obtain goods, services, and infrastructure projects. According to international studies, the effectiveness of public procurement largely depends on the professional competencies and qualifications of specialists responsible for procurement activities[1].

In recent years, the modernization and digitalization of public procurement systems have created new challenges and requirements for procurement professionals. As procurement processes become more complex and technologically advanced, there is a growing need for highly qualified specialists with strong analytical, legal, and managerial skills. In this context, higher education institutions play a key role in preparing future professionals capable of managing procurement systems effectively and transparently.

In addition, public procurement systems are increasingly being regulated and improved through strategic policy frameworks and national legislation. The European Commission emphasizes the importance of strategic procurement in achieving efficiency, transparency, and innovation in public sector activities. In the context of Uzbekistan, the Law on Public Procurement establishes the legal framework for transparent and competitive procurement processes, highlighting the need for professionally trained specialists in this field[2].

Literature Review. The issue of training qualified specialists in the field of public procurement has attracted increasing attention from researchers and international organizations in recent years. Efficient procurement systems require professionals who possess not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills related to financial management, legal regulations, contract management, and digital procurement technologies.

According to research conducted by Louise Knight and colleagues, education plays a crucial role in shaping the competencies of public procurement professionals.

1 Louise Knight, Stek K., Peters E. (2020). The Impact of Education on Public Buyers.

2 Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Public Procurement”.

Their study emphasizes that structured educational programs significantly improve the ability of procurement specialists to make strategic decisions and manage procurement processes effectively. Universities and professional training institutions therefore act as key platforms for building professional knowledge in procurement management.

Similarly, the research conducted by Richard Jaffu demonstrates that professional training and continuous education directly influence the performance of procurement professionals. The author argues that training programs that combine theoretical learning with practical exercises lead to higher efficiency in procurement activities and reduce the risks of mismanagement and inefficiency in public spending.

Professional organizations also play a significant role in the development of procurement education. For example, the Institute for Supply Management provides internationally recognized certification programs and training standards for procurement and supply management professionals. These programs contribute to the development of practical skills and professional competencies required in modern procurement systems[3].

Overall, the literature indicates that the modernization of higher education programs plays a critical role in improving the professional capacity of procurement specialists and strengthening the effectiveness and transparency of public procurement systems.

Research methodology. This study uses qualitative and analytical research methods to examine modern educational models used in the training of public procurement specialists in higher education institutions. The research is based on the analysis of scientific literature, international reports, and educational practices related to procurement education.

The methodological approach of the study includes comparative analysis of international educational programs, review of academic publications on procurement training, and evaluation of innovative teaching methods used in universities. In

3 Institute for Supply Management. (2022). Supply Management and Procurement Education Programs.

addition, the study examines how competency-based education and digital learning technologies contribute to the development of professional skills in procurement management[4].

The research also focuses on identifying the most effective educational practices that can be implemented in higher education institutions to improve the training of procurement specialists. Special attention is given to the integration of practical training, case studies, and digital learning platforms within procurement education programs.

Analysis and discussion. Modern higher education institutions increasingly adopt innovative educational models to improve the quality of professional training. One of the most effective approaches is competency-based education, which focuses on developing practical skills and professional competencies rather than only theoretical knowledge[5].

The table below summarizes key modern educational models used in procurement training.

Table 1.

Educational model	Key Features
Competency-Based Education	Focus on practical skills and professional competencies
Digital Learning Platforms	Use of e-learning systems and digital procurement simulatior
Practice-Oriented Learning	Internships, case studie and real procurement projects
Interdisciplinary Education	Integration of economic law, and management courses

4 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2020). Public Procurement and Innovation.

5 Richard Jaffu. (2023). Training and Performance of Public Procurement Professionals in Tanzania. Management & Economics Research Journal.

These models contribute to improving the quality of procurement education and help universities prepare specialists capable of managing modern procurement systems effectively.

Another important educational model is the integration of digital technologies in teaching and learning processes. Many universities use digital learning platforms and simulation tools that allow students to practice procurement procedures in virtual environments. Such technologies help students understand the functioning of electronic procurement systems and improve their ability to manage digital procurement platforms.

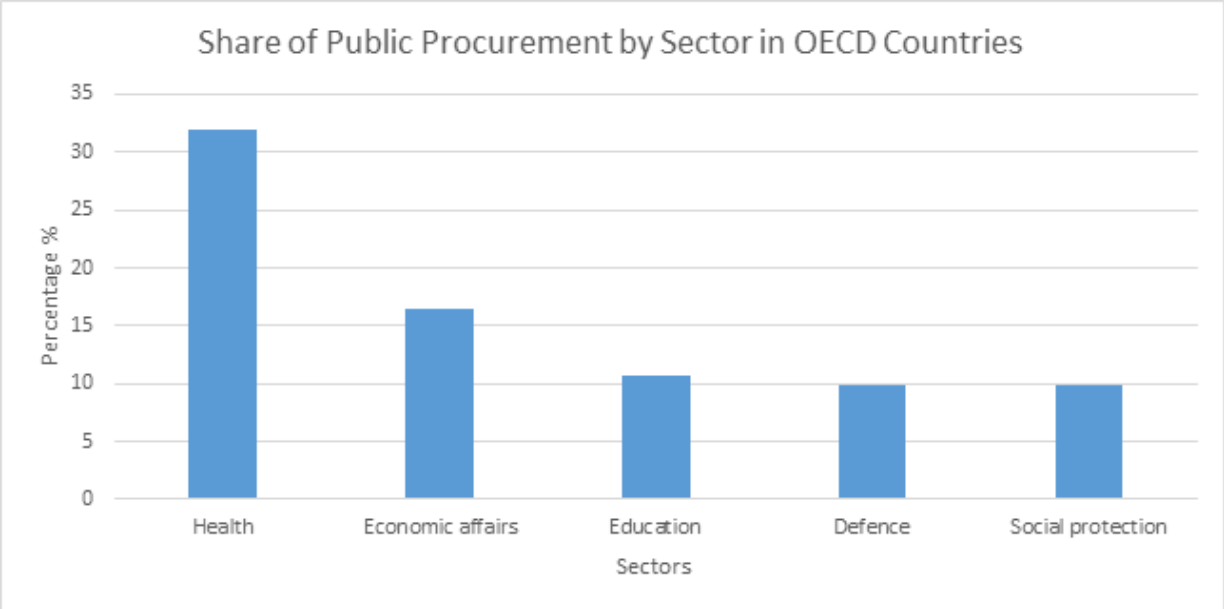
Practical training also plays a crucial role in preparing procurement specialists. Universities often cooperate with government institutions and private sector organizations to provide internships and practical learning opportunities for students[6]. These partnerships allow students to gain real-world experience and better understand the challenges of procurement management.

Furthermore, strategic approaches to public procurement emphasize innovation and long-term value creation. According to the European Commission, modern procurement systems should not only focus on cost efficiency but also support innovation, sustainability, and economic development[7]. This further increases the importance of integrating advanced educational models in higher education institutions.

Figure 1.

6 Purdum S., Young R. (2019). Benchmarking Procurement Practices in Higher Education. IBM Center for the Business of Government.

7 European Commission. (2021). Public Procurement Strategic Framework.



As shown in Figure 1, public procurement expenditures are concentrated mainly in the health sector, while education accounts for a significant share, highlighting the importance of procurement systems in higher education development[8].

Conclusion. The effectiveness of public procurement systems largely depends on the qualifications and professional competencies of procurement specialists. As procurement processes become more complex and digitalized, higher education institutions play an increasingly important role in preparing qualified professionals for this field.

The analysis conducted in this study shows that modern educational models such as competency-based learning, digital education technologies, and practice-oriented training significantly improve the quality of procurement education. These approaches enable students to acquire both theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for managing procurement activities in public institutions.

Therefore, the adoption of innovative educational models in higher education institutions can contribute to the development of highly qualified procurement specialists and strengthen transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public procurement systems.

8 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2023). Goverenment at a glance.

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