

Abstract

Materials that required keeping the electric distribution system running might be defined as Operation and Maintenance (O&M) materials for RE program. These materials were purchased centrally by REB and then were distributed among the PBSs according to their respective demand against loan. From 2006 The PBSs are entitled to source O&M materials on their own according to policy guideline prescribed in PBS Instruction 100-58. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the hybrid structure of purchasing is the demand of time. The number of materials required for maintaining electric distribution system is very large.

Due to time and financial constraints it was not practical to go for detailed study of effectiveness achieved by all twelve lead PBSs. For this reason we have selected Gazipur Palli Bidyut Samity as our field of our case study.

The objectives of this study are: to identify effectiveness of procurement practices of O&M materials in Gazipur PBS, to identify factors those are affecting procurement practices of O&M materials of Gazipur PBS. It includes quality of materials purchased, scale price economy achieved and improvement of lead time and finally to suggest some recommendations.

Various methodologies like questionnaire survey, focus group discussion, key informant interview etc could be used for research projects. In our study, we went for questionnaire survey. The questionnaire survey was adopted for collecting primary data in this research work. Questionnaire survey was conducted on 4 different level PBS officers of Gazipur Palli Bidyut Samity those who had experience of purchasing O&M materials before and after introduction of the PBS instruction 100-58. They have also experience of lead PBS as well as individual requisitioned PBS. Before asking for filling the questionnaire, the general idea of the research objectives were exchanged with them. After the exchange of general idea of the research objectives, the questionnaire was given to them.

As the cent percent of the targeted population were covered under questionnaire survey the finding of the study is almost concrete and the views of the key officials of Gazipur PBS

reflected the both perspective of PBS Instruction 100-58. During our study it is found that there is a significant difference between the previous procedures of purchasing O&M materials. Eventually both of them has some advantages and disadvantages as well. The quality, price and lead time of the procurement have significantly improved. On the other hand the most crucial issue is that PBSs have to pay for their required materials instantly. As result it has become difficult for financially nonviable PBSs.

The finding of the study reveals that the present process of purchasing O&M materials is a combination of Lead Buyer Approach and Centre Led Action Network (CLAN). The latest instruction and that followed previously are significantly different. There are differences regarding approach of purchasing, processes followed, sources of finance, mode and places of delivery, mode of payment, etc. We also noted the perception of the key respondents that the latest procedure ensures better quality, better price and lead time has also improved.

The disadvantages of the procedure might be attended properly if we could trained the PBSs people properly, delegate more authority to PBSs, create a common O&M fund to provide financial assistance to the insolvent PBSs.