

Effects Covid-19 on Supply Chain and Health care Product Innovations

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Abstract

The onset of covid-19 in late 2019 created turbulent and disruption of the social, economic and political systems. Worse still, business operation took a hard hit globally. Consequently, the global supply chain was thrown into total disarray, leading to shortages and stockout of raw materials, spare parts - components, unfulfilled products and service deliveries. worse still, the weak global health service delivery systems were exposed as the corona virus disease broke out in China, spreading across the world. The global pandemic overran the health systems leading to collapse of service delivery in terms of testing, treatment and general management of other ailments as patients shied away from health facilities for fear of contracting the virus. To mitigate the shortages of pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals products, many countries started re-tooling their production systems so as to produce PPEs and other protective gears, sanitizers, disinfectants, testing kits, oxygen concentrators, oxygen gauges, ventilators and so forth, In order to meet the growing demand of products that were in short supply. Ultimately, a lot of innovations started emerging across the globe, Kenya being no exception. Nonetheless, the speed of commercialization became a great challenge. Using an exploratory survey design, this study sought to examine the extent of commercialization of Covid -19 health care related products in Kenya. The study findings indicate that in as much as there were emerging innovative products, the pace of commercialization was still very low. It is recommended that the government should formulate policies that would fast track innovations patenting processes and ultimately, create regulatory frameworks that support commercialization of the same.

Key words: Covid-19, supply chain, health care service