

**The role of engineering management consulting services in poverty alleviation: a case study
of small and medium sized manufacturing enterprises (SMEs) in Tanzania**

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This study was set out to assess the extent to which engineering management consulting services have been used to improve the performance of small and medium sized manufacturing enterprises in Tanzania and, thereby contributing toward poverty alleviation. The proposition of the study was that there is a link between engineering management consulting services, performance of small and medium sized manufacturing enterprises (SMEs) and poverty alleviation. The study addressed the relevance of engineering management consulting services towards improving the performance of SMEs. It also acknowledged the role played by these small and medium sized enterprises towards the national economies in the world as a result of the improved sector productivity. It is argued that productivity enhances the performance and growth of the national economy, which in turn, reduces the incidence of poverty. An analysis of the findings has revealed that SMEs prefer utilizing engineering management consulting services to address their organizational problems but there are stumbling blocks, which hinder them from accessing such services, and they include ignorance of their existence and financial inabilities to meet consulting fees. The study concludes by recommending SMEs' stakeholders to establish deliberate efforts of offering business support services of this nature to small and medium sized enterprises in Tanzania.