

CHAPTER 1

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Supply Chain Management has been a hot topic in the recent times as companies have become aware of the potential of their supply chains. (Banerjee & Mishra, 2017) emphasizes that supply chain management practices attracts profits and enhances an organizations' competitive edge in a highly increasing competitive marketplace. Furthermore, the researchers highlight that firms enveloped in a stiff environment rely on supply chain management as a crucial key to their survival, therefore, scholars, managers and consultants have paid great attention to this concept. It is in this regard that supply chain management practices are fundamental to increasing the performance of a company.

Many businesses fall because they breed a lot of uncertainties which they cannot control. One of these uncertainties include demand uncertainty as explained by (Aslam, Saleem, Khan, & Kim, 2021). Most of these uncertainties could be reduced or eradicated by establishment of a supply chain management system that helps to coordinate activities within the supply chain. Through proper integration of different supply chain partners, the concept of supply chain management solidifies and provides solutions to both the firms and other parties involved.

The emergence of COVID-19 in late 2019 trembled many businesses and caused supply chain disruptions. (George & Madhusudanan Pillai, 2019) emphasized that as a result of globalization and interdependence of a network of many companies, supply chains have been exposed to high risks as production of goods hit rock bottom during the struggle to leverage companies in the COVID-19 pandemic. Many foreign companies that relied on production and supply from China for instance were the first to get hit due to strict city lockdowns during the emergence of the virus. (Iyengar, Vaishya, Bahl, & Vaish, 2020) emphasize that covid-19 has affected almost all if not all the areas of the supply chain.

The purpose of this research therefore is to review the literature concepts of supply chain management practices. Secondly, the research being a bibliometric review and analysis, the researcher aims to review the trends of research publications of this area from 2018-2019 (pre-

pandemic) and 2020-2021 (Mid-Pandemic) in order to explain the evolutions of the topic and provide research directions for current pandemic and the future.

1.2 Problem Statement

1. How are current Supply Chain Management Practice concepts defined?
2. What are the current research publication trends of Supply Chain Management practices?
3. What are the implications and future roadmaps on the topic of Supply Chain Management Practice research?

1.3 Objectives of Research

1. Define current supply chain management practices concepts
2. Identify evolution of researches on supply chain management practices
3. Provide supply chain management practices research implications for the COVID-19 pandemic period and the future

1.4 Benefits of the Research

1. Provide research trends on the area of supply chain management practices
2. Elaborate supply chain management practices concepts
3. Outline supply chain management practice research implications for mid and post pandemic period

1.5 Research Methodology

The study utilizes historical, descriptive and analysis methodology. This research will involve a quantitative method of research conducted through bibliometric analysis

Secondary sources of data collection include books, references, internet and scientific researches derived from Scopus engine.

1.6. Previous Studies

The previous studies that have similar subject head will be displayed in literature review

1.7 Research Construction:

In order to organize this study the researcher divides it into five chapters:

1. Chapter 1: Research plan (Introduction, study question, study aims, benefits of the study, study methodology, previous studies, sources of data collection and research construction)

2. Chapter 2: Literature Review (supply chain management, supply chain management practices and supply chain performance and Covid-19)
3. Chapter 3: Research Methodology
4. Chapter 4: Data analysis and discussion
5. Chapter 5: Conclusions (Summary, results, recommendations, references and appendix)