

Supply Chain and Operations Management Journal's: An Overview and Need for a New Journal in Supply Chain Management

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is an attempt to understand the background which has prompted us to come out with a new journal and the objectives which has guided us for nearly three years and eleven issues including the present issue. We have identified our limitations and future directions. Finally, we have outlined the references and further reading section in which we have identified some recent and classical papers which will guide existing and aspiring PhD scholars to undertake their research in supply chain and operations management.

Keywords: Supply Chain Management Research, Operations Management Research, Supply Chain Journals, Operations Management Journals

INTRODUCTION

In the last 25 years the supply chain management has attracted immense interest from academics and practitioners. In recent years the supply chain management has emerged as a critical competitive force in highly turbulent business environment (Melnik et al. 2014). Corominas (2013) in one of the articles has argued that the meteoric rise of supply chain management discipline in last one decade has exposed several missing links, which existing supply chain and operations management literature has failed to address. In past the supply chain discipline was covered under production management (Corominas, 2013), however, in last few years the supply chain has gained its individual identity. The academic institutions, in order to meet the growing demand of supply chain professionals have designed specialized bachelor and post-graduate programs. In past the production management issues were addressed in management science and operations research journals. However, in 1980 the *Journal of Operations Management* and *International Journal of Operations and Production Management* were founded with an objective to establish operations management field identity. In past the models which were proposed in management science and operations research journals were not empirically investigated and therefore

operations management field researchers felt the need for individual identity for operations management field (Buffa et al. 1980). Haber and Sitgreaves (1980) provided an optimal inventory model under uncertain resupply. Since, then the field has attracted many contributions related to inventory and operations management themes. The majority of the research in past was both focusing on purchasing or inventory management and manufacturing management. Gilbert and Ballou (1999), in one of the research attempted to investigate the benefits in supply chain through customer's commitment through discount scheme. However, it was Houlihan (1985) article which was the probably the first supply chain management article published by any Journals (Alfalla-Luque and Medina-Lopez, 2009). During 1990s the concept of physical distribution and purchasing were two different terms were used as two separate functional activities. In order to address the physical distribution related research issue "International Journal of Physical Distribution" was founded, later which was renamed as "*International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management*" to address the channel management and transportation and warehousing related issues. At the same time there were other two popular journals entitled as "*Journal of Business Logistics*" and "*Transportation Journal*" was already positioned as significant journals, focusing on practice related issues.

Since then the supply chain management has attracted tremendous attraction from operations and supply chain community. In the year 1996 the ***Supply Chain Management: An International Journal*** was founded to respond the growing need of the research in supply chain management. Similarly, in the year 1999 another prestigious journal at that point of time “*International Journal of Purchasing and Materials Management*” published by Institute of Supply Management also renamed it as “*Journal of Supply Chain Management*” to address the growing popularity of the nascent field “***The supply chain management***” which was trying to position itself as an independent field to address the holistic issues which the “*International Journal of Purchasing and Materials Management*” failed to address the integrated perspective of business integration. However, in the late 1990’s the popular practitioners based journals likes *Harvard Business Review*, MIT Sloan Review and *Supply Chain Management Review* have attracted some path breaking contributions which has triggered over 1000’s empirical research which got published in leading research based journals which includes non-exhaustive list of *Journal of Operations Management*, *International Journal of Operations and Productions Management*, *Journal of Supply Chain Management*, *International Journal of Business Logistics*, *International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management*, *Transportation Journal*, *Naval Research Logistics*, *Supply Chain Management: An International Journal*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *International Journal of Production Research*, *Transportation Research: A,B,C,D,E etc.* Majority of these journals are highly ranked in their categories with high rejection rates. Developing economies like India and China in 1990’s except few scholars, the numbers of articles published by Indian and Chinese universities scholars were insignificant. However in the late 2000’s Chinese universities scholars have started making their own impacts and in India except few IITs and IIMs scholars the contributions to the field of supply chain fields were very less. Even the contributions from Indian scholars in the field of supply chain management, were primarily revolving around operations research models. There was hardly any empirical papers which either attempted to build supply chain theory or extend past research. In late 2010 we can see a significant jump in the contributions to the supply chain management literature, in which the role of Indian scholars were significant. However, if we compare Indian researchers output in comparison with European and Chinese researchers the contribution of Indian researchers in reputable journals like *Journal of Operations Management*, *Journal of*

Supply Chain Management, *Journal of Business Logistics*, *Production and Operations Management Journal*, *Management Science* and other related journals is quite insignificant. In order to bridge the existing gap between top refereed journals and low quality paid journals, we founded “*Journal of Supply Chain Management Systems*” to promote research in supply chain management and its allied field. The objective was to attract good quality papers and after rigorous review, selected articles to be published in quarterly issues.

Since, then the journal is nearing to complete its third year and till date it has published over ten issues. The journal has attracted significant contributions from various countries which include India, USA, China, Iran, Greece, and other many countries. In last ten issues we have attracted articles which have attempted to contribute to the extant supply chain and operations management literature. In the existing issue we have attracted five articles. All the submitted articles after doubled blind review were subjected to major revisions or rejection. The authors who further responded to the request from editorial office, to undertake major revisions in the line of referee comments were finally included in the Volume 3 and No. 3 of the “*Journal of Supply Chain Management Systems*”.

The remainder of the paper discusses the limitations of the journal, journal future and further outlined the recent and classical papers in the field of supply chain and operations management which will help aspiring PhD scholars to identify their research problems.

LIMITATIONS OF JOURNAL OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Our journal is relatively very young journal in the field of supply chain and operations management. Already in our preceding discussions we identified a non-exhaustive list of journals which has already positioned themselves as world leading journals in the field of supply chain and operations management. In comparison to those journals, we have a long journey to cover. Second, today in the era of indexing which includes Science Citation Index (SCI)/Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), and Scopus which are the two most leading indices, our journal at present is yet to be indexed in SSCI or Scopus. Hence, until we do not get indexed till that time we need to be dependent on submissions from lesser known researchers. However in spite of these constraints in past we have attracted some really good papers from reputable scholars from India and USA. Third, in last ten issues we have

failed to attract good empirical articles focusing on popular issues which include sustainable supply chain management, responsible supply chain management practices, application of big data and business analytics in supply chain management, behavioral supply chain management and supply chain theories. Fourth, we have failed to attract articles from leading scholars from supply chain and operations management field. However, we feel that these limitations will provide us future directions to “*Journal of Supply Chain Management Systems*”.

FUTURE AHEAD OF JOURNAL OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

In future the journal has important role to play in the advancement of supply chain management theory. In future we will encourage articles which are focusing on theory building and theory testing which includes empirical research, case studies, appreciative inquiry, ethnographic studies, total interpretive structural modeling, in supply chain management and other qualitative research methods. The future issues will be attracting contributions in the field of humanitarian and disaster relief supply chain, sustainable supply chain, responsible supply chains, supply chain network theory and big data and business analytics in supply chain. We have also outlined some of the further readings in the field of supply chain and operations management for young readers and PhD scholars, who are aspiring to pursue their PhD in the field of operations and supply chain management at the end of our references section. From this issue onward we will come out with editorial note where critical review of recent significant research in the field of supply chain and operations management will be discussed and further provide future research questions, which may attract young researchers to undertake their research.

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