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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN INDIA: TOWARDS INTROSPECTION AND SOLUTIONS	1
	ANJANEY PANDEY, MAHESWAR SATPATHY & GOVIND SINGH	-
2 .	QUALITY FUNCTION DEPLOYMENT FOR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTED PRIVATE COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES MA. TEODORA E. GUTIERREZ	4
3.	CULTURAL APTITUDE & ADJUSTMENT - THE IMPACT OF THE EXPECTED TENURE OF A CROSS CULTURAL PROJECT	9
5.	SHAHZAD GHAFOOR & UZAIR FAROOQ KHAN	9
4.	REPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURES IN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	15
	DR. TAIWO ASAOLU & DR. JOHN A. ENAHORO	
5.	ISLAMIC MICRO-FINANCE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION: A CASE OF PAKISTAN DR. WAHEED AKHTER. DR. NADEEM AKHTAR & KHURAM ALI JAFRI	24
6	AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF CONTEMPORARY OPTION PRICING MODELS	70
6.	DIPTI RANJAN MOHANTY & DR. SUSANTA KUMAR MISHRA	28
7.	E-LEARNING: THE DIGITIZATION STRATEGY	31
	RAFI AHMED KHAN & DR. ISHTIAQ HUSSAIN QURESHI	
8 .	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MILK UNIONS – A STUDY AT KARNATAKA MILK FEDERATION	35
	DR. M. JEYARATHNAM & GEETHA. M. RAJARAM	
9.	INVESTORS PERCEPTION TOWARDS INVESTMENT IN MUTUAL FUNDS DR. R. NANDAGOPAL, M. SATHISH, K. J. NAVEEN & V. JEEVANANTHAM	40
10.	BUSINESS IN GEMSTONE POLISHING: AN EMERGING INDUSTRIAL TRAINING & ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPTION FOR INCLUSIVE	45
10.	GROWTH IN EASTERN INDIA	45
	DR. S. P. RATH, PROF. BISWAJIT DAS, DR. SHIVSHANKAR K. MISHRA & PROF. SATISH JAYARAM	
11.	A COMPARITIVE STUDY BETWEEN HOTEL GOLD & NIRULA'S – PANIPAT CITY	49
	DR. PUJA WALIA MANN & MANISH JHA	
12.	IMPROVEMENT OF WORKPLACE CHARACTERISTICS THROUGH SPIRITUAL INCLINATION DR. R. KRISHNAVENI & G. NATARAJAN	54
13.	MEASURING THE SERVICE QUALITY OF SERVICE SECTOR - A CASE OF COMMERCIAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA	59
15.	R. RENJITH KUMAR	59
14.	SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN AN AUTOMOBILE COMPANY: A CASE STUDY	62
	ARVIND JAYANT & V. PATEL	
15.	INFORMATION CONTENT OF DIVIDENDS: EMPIRICAL STUDY OF BSE LISTED COMPANIES	69
10	DR. KARAMJEET KAUR NEED FOR CONVERGING TO IFRS: THE NEW GLOBAL REPORTING LANGUAGE	77
16 .	DR. AMARJEET KAUR MALHOTRA	77
17.	ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY THROUGH RURAL DEVELOPMENT- AN ANALYSIS	81
_/.	DR. PAWAN KUMAR DHIMAN	01
18.	FORECASTING MONTHLY FOREIGN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENTS IN BSE AND NSE EQUITY MARKET USING ARIMA MODEL	86
	DR. S. SUDALAIMUTHU & ANBUKARASI	
19.	A STEP FORWARD: FROM FUZZY TO NEURO-FUZZY APOORVI SOOD & SWATI AGGARWAL	92
20.	USAGE OF E-RESOURCES BY ACADEMICS – A STUDY (WITH REFERENCE TO AFFILIATED BHARATHIAR UNIVERISTY COLLEGES,	96
20.	COIMBATORE CITY)	90
	DR. M. MEENAKSHI SARATHA & DR. D. MAHESH	
21.	A STUDY ON IMPACT OF JOB SATISFACTION ON QUALITY OF WORK LIFE AMONG EMPLOYEES IN HOTEL INDUSTRY (WITH	101
	REFERENCE TO CATEGORIZED HOTELS IN FARIDABAD REGION)	
22	VIJIT CHATURVEDI & DR. D. S. YADAV RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: EXPLORING THE OPPORTUNITIES FROM WASTE PRODUCTS OF BANANAS PLANT IN	405
22 .	KARNATAKA	105
	RASHMI S. B. & V. JYOTHSNA	
23.	HUMAN RESOURCE ACCOUNTING (HRA) - A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS	108
	DR. AJAZ AKBAR MIR & MANMEET SINGH	
24.	MICROFINANCE USING INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	115
	S. KUMAR CHANDAR	
25.	FUNDAMENTAL & TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF REAL ESTATE SECTOR: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE PUNEET KUMAR	119
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK	130

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SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN AN AUTOMOBILE COMPANY: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Supply chain management (SCM) has emerged as an increasingly important approach to improving the performance of logistics systems. SCM is an integrated approach to increase the effectiveness of the logistics chain by improving cooperation between the players in the chain. Supplier selection is one of the most crucial activities performed by organizations because of its strategic importance. This project is done in a SME (Small Medium Enterprise), which is an automobile industry of North India and producing motor cycles. The supply chain of the company is analyzed and major problems areas are identified by using SWOT analysis and Fish-bone diagrams. Stress is being given on development of performance measurement framework and vendor evaluation and selection in supply chain management. A responsive planning and procurement strategies are recommended to XYZ Ltd. to be flexible enough to respond to the fluctuations in the market more effectively. The present work proposes an AHP (Analytical Hierarchy Process) approach for the selection of vendors in a supply chain. The major advantages of this research are that it can be used for both qualitative and quantitative criteria. The results show that the model has the capability to be flexible and apply in different types of industries to choose their vendor.

KEYWORDS

Supply Chain Management, Vendor selection, Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP).

INTRODUCTION

supply chain is the stream of processes of moving goods from the customer order through the raw materials stage, supply, production, and distribution of products to the Customer. All organizations have supply chains of varying degrees, depending upon the size of the organization and the type of product manufactured [2]. These networks obtain supplies and components, change these materials into finished products and then distribute them to the customer. The first step is obtaining a customer order, followed by production, storage and distribution of products and supplies to the customer site satisfaction is paramount. In addition, key to the success of a supply chain is the speed in which these activities can be accomplished and the realization that customer needs and customer satisfaction are the very reasons for the network. Reduced inventories, lower operating costs, product availability and customer satisfaction are all benefits which grow out of effective supply chain. Supply chain management involves the flows of material, information and finance in a network consisting of customers, suppliers, manufacturers, and distributors. It begins with raw materials, Continues through internal operations, ends with distribution of finished goods. The short-term objective of SCM is primarily to increase productivity and reduce the entire inventory and the total cycle time, while the long-term objective is to increase customer satisfaction, market share, and profits for all organizations in the supply chain: suppliers, manufacturers, distribution centers (DCs), and customers.

In supply chains, coordination between a manufacturer and suppliers is typically a difficult and important link in the channel of distribution. Since suppliers are manufacturer's external organizations, the coordination with the suppliers is not easy unless systems for cooperation and information exchange are integrated [3]. The coordination between a manufacturer and suppliers is important because the failure of coordination results in excessive delays, and ultimately leads to poor customer services. Consequently, inventories of incoming parts from suppliers or those of finished goods at the manufacturer and distribution centres (DCs) may accumulate. Hence, the total cost of the entire supply chains will rise. Manufacturers are able to assist their suppliers by providing knowledge, skills, and experience, and to benefit in turn from suppliers' improved delivery performance and from fewer production disruptions that are caused by poor quality materials. The suppliers also can benefit by becoming more competitive than other suppliers as performance improves and costs go down. Thus, supplier development is a vehicle that can be used to increase the competitiveness of the entire supply chains.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMPANY

The company chosen for this research study is a famous automobile manufacturing industry for the two wheelers and located in the northern part of India. The company having a good number of overseas vendors and lead time of these vendors are very high. To handle the problem of high lead time company forced to kept huge inventory in the store to meet the customer demand without any service failure. Recently, the company planned to launch a improve version of exiting bike to improve the quality of the product. They planned to purchase the quality components/sub-assemblies at low cost and at a short duration of time. Instead of purchasing the components/sub-assembly material from the single vendor they noted that three alternative vendors, namely vendor1, vendor2 and vendor3 were taken into consideration. The company had planned to select the best vendor from the three vendors. The turnover of the company is 500 Cr/year having worker strength of about 700/shift. Instead of choosing the same vendor for supplying the bike components, a systematic approach has been applied for selecting a best vendor to supply the required components/sub-assembly.

FACT FILES OF COMPANY

1 Product range : Motor Bike. : About Rs.500 Cr.

> : 700 : ISO 9002.

:1000

:45

- Turnover 2.
- 3. No of employees
- 4. **Ouality** specification
- 5. Total no. components.
- 6. No. of vendors

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The supply chain of the company has been studied thoroughly by visiting the XYZ Ltd. Many times and many brains storming session have been conducted with the officials and the other to understand the company business environment. The research methodology can be summarized by figure 1.Identification of problems and opportunity areas in the board manner are undertaken using the following technique for further improvement.

- 1. SWOT analysis of the supply chain to identify the strengths, weakness, opportunity and threats.
- 2. Causes the effect analysis of the main problem in the supply chain to find out the key reason for effectiveness.
- 3. Summary of supply chain problem.
- 4. Opportunity identified to improve the existing supply chain.
- 5. Require data collection.
- 6. Development of flexible models to solving the problem.
- FIGURE 1: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

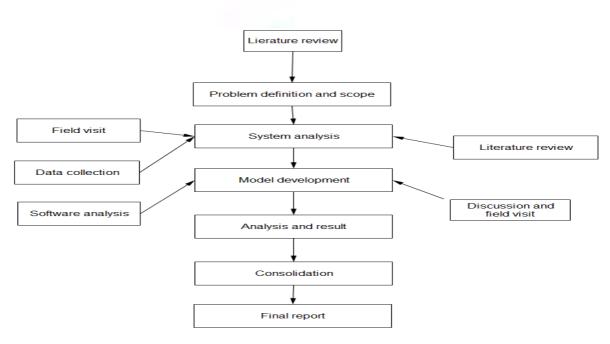
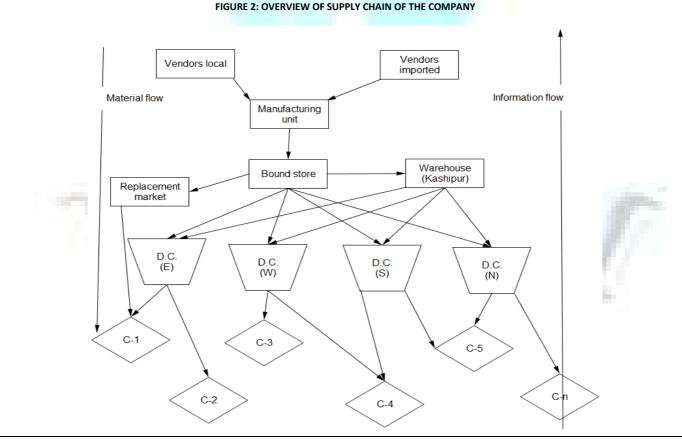


Fig.Work plan of project

OVERVIEW OF SUPPLY CHAIN OF THE COMPANY



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMPUTER APPLICATION & MANAGEMENT A Monthly Double-Blind Peer Reviewed Refereed Open Access International e-Journal - Included in the International Serial Directories www.ijrcm.org.in The figure 2 shows the various levels in the supply chain of the company. The simplified diagram gives the overview of the company supply chain. The important point in the company supply chain is that the all distributer are not share the information to each other whenever, uncertain demand occurs in the market for the product, then they inform to the company directly for the more product/quantity and not get it from the nearest distributer due to this stock out occurs and the company experienced the lost sales. This can be avoided by connecting the distributers to each other. In the company supply chain the finished goods are supplied to customers through three routes.

- 1. Direct to customer.
- 2. Warehouse/distributer to customer.
- **3.** Replacement market to customer.

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SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL OF THE COMPANY
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FIGURE 3 EXISTING SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL

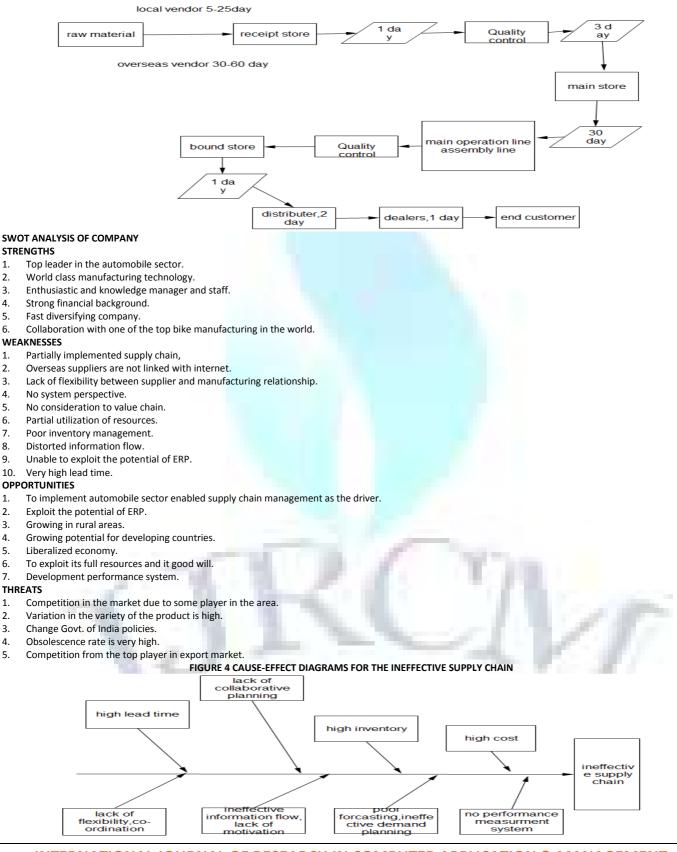
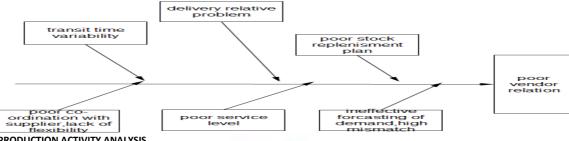


FIGURE 5: CAUSES-EFFECT DIAGRAMS FOR STOCK OUT



PRODUCTION ACTIVITY ANALYSIS

The activity at the company is analyzed and the time for the major activity for value adding and non value adding activity is identified. All the major activities right from the start of ordering to the final dispatching to the customer are analyzed and summarized in the table.1

	TABLE 1: PRODUCTION AC	τινιτγ	ANALYSIS
	Left hand Side		Right Hand Side
	Activity (LH)		Activity (RH)
	Stage		Stage
1.CM-	Collect bearing. Race and pose bearing. Collect chassis from trolley and	1	Collect rear wheel from trolley and load on conveyor, collect kit bin
1	load on no. punch M/C number punching cycle start, load/unload with		from trolley & load on conveyor. Remove empty kit from the
	Zimmerman.		conveyor.
CM-2	Position Sticker on card and position the card on vehicle. Scanning the bar	2	Align & adjust rear wheel with co. member & place & place
	code sticker, removed the rubber band and polythene.		spacer.RBL spring and torque rod bolt placement.
CM-3	Hold chassis by tackle load chassis on slate conveyor align and adjust rear	3	Fork fitment up to torque reset.
	wheel with co-member and insert axle.		
2.	ABS component flag positioning, paint on Numb <mark>er</mark> punch, upper bearing	4	Front fender prefitment with 4 bolts.
	cage position, position handle bar holder.		
3.	Position of lock set, profit fork cap with nut, washer and 2 bolts, centre	5	Front fender tightening, torque rod bolt placement, front fender
	locking tightening.		torque verification.
4	Engine inserting, Left side bkt and 14 mm bolts insertion, engine bkt and	6	Engine preferment, position adjusts.
	bolt on conveyor, breather pipe connection with clip, magneto coupler		
	fitment.		
5	Position chain on sprocket, positioning sprocket lock, Allen bolt (2 Nos)	7	RH Engine lower bkt insertion & 14 mm prefit, carburettor clip
	prefit and tight.		fitment.
6	Engine Lower and hanging bkt tightening	8	RH Engine hanging bkt insertion & 12 mm prefit.
7	Seat cowl positioning, adjust chain tension & fit by using poke, Adjust nut and Coupling nut tightening.	9	Silencer gasket insertion, Engine tightening.
8	Bar code sticker on chassis, fork bkt fit with two bolts. Fork cap 2 bolt (17 mm) tightening.	10	Front wheel unloading, front break panel fitment with spacer, carburettor fitment.
9	Lower chain case preferment, handle holder upper positioning.	11	Front wheel tightening,
10	Upper chain case preferment, chain case tightening, adjuster nut tightening.	12	Rear wheel alignment and tightening, break rod tightening
11	Collect handle bar from trolley. Handle bar filament, tight front two bolts,	13	Collect muffler from trolley and position cylinder head 2 nuts
	rear nut tightening.		prefit, 1 rear bolt prefit.
12	RR cover fitment and tightening, gear change lever fitment complete.	14	Silencer front nut tightening rider step tightening.
13	Seat cowl position and 3 screws fitment.	15	RBL insertion lower, silencer tightening complete, snap pin
			insertion in torque rod bolt.
14	Stem nut torque check, SPM cable fitment to speedometer, TPS connection and play setting.	16	Carburettor insulator insertion
15	PT fitment and tightening.	17	Handle bar cable routing
16	Side panel fitment, pt lock fitment.	18	SPM and flap filament
17	Fairing screw preferment.	19	SPM tightening, throttle wire connection in plunger.
18	Fairing screw tightening, SPM cable connection to panel's cable is tightening, focus screw tightening.	20	Lock in filament, 2 coupler connection.
19	Fork break connection, flag removal.	21	2 coupler connection, choke connection, spark plug filament.
20	Grab handle fitment and tightening.	22	Crab pipe routing, clutch connections/C filament and tightening.
21	Online Inspection	23	Firing screw prefitment.
22	Vehicle offline.	24	Fairing tightening, kick filament. RHSP panel filament.
		25	Online inspection.

OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFIED TO IMPROVE COMPANY PERFORMANCE

1. Make the supply chain agile, effective and responsive.

2. Development of an integrated performance measurement system

3. Integrate supply chain through IT intervention.

4. Improved the co-ordination with the suppliers to make inbound logistics more responsive and flexible.

EVALUATION OF VENDORS USING AHP METHOD

The company chosen for this work plan to build a supply chain for its new model of bike. Sub-assemblies and components to the bike can be outsourced to vendors/suppliers. Among the questions that arise are; which vendors are to be selected. The conceptual vendor selection model is shown in Fig. 6. Figure 6 explains about the overall theme (model) of the research, i.e., selection of best vendor from the 'n' numbers of vendors for the original equipment manufacturers (OEM) company. The attributes and the sub-attributes have to be most prevalent and important in the vendor selection process. Choosing the possible criteria for the vendor selection involves a decision making team which includes experts from the industry side (purchasing head, purchasing manager, sales manager, product manager, quality manager and production in-charge). The attributes and sub attributes involved in the vendor selection have been

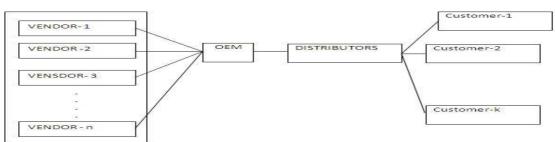
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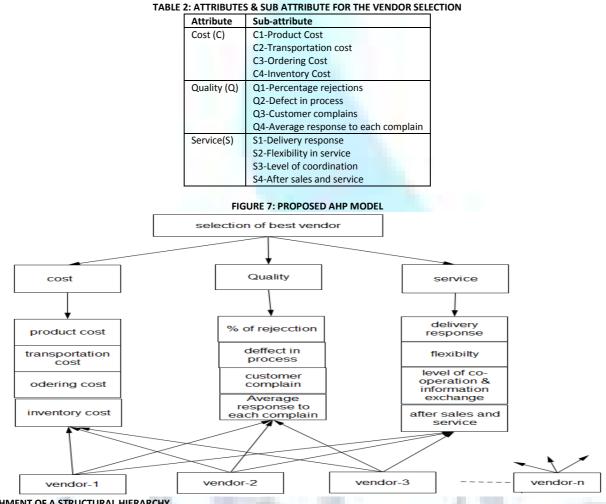
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chosen by conducting a survey. A questionnaire consisting of these factors was designed for the survey. The respondents for the survey are selected randomly from different functional areas of the original equipment manufacturers company who are directly involved with the components/materials supplied by the vendors.

FIGURE 6: BEST VENDOR SELECTION MODEL



Based On the survey conducted the major influencing attributes and sub-attributes involved in vendor selection is given in Table 2. The objective is to select a set of vendors, evaluate and rank them according to redefined attributes. Figure 7 explains the AHP model.



ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRUCTURAL HIERARCHY

The AHP is a multi-attribute evaluation method that involves three phases: decomposition, comparative judgments, and synthesis of priorities (Saaty, 1980). In the decomposition phase, the project team can explicitly develop the AHP hierarchy model from the fundamental-objective hierarchy as mentioned above. In the second phase, each decision maker utilizes paired comparisons for the attributes and alternatives to extract judgment matrices with a nine-point scale at each level. In the third phase, the paired comparison process is repeated for each attribute in the alternative prioritization problem based on the largest Eigenvalue method. Finally, the relative importance of attributes and the global priority of alternatives can be obtained by aggregating the weights over the hierarchy. Hence, AHP can accelerate the development of a consensus amongst multiple decision makers in vendor management and selection process. A schematic representation of the AHP methodology is shown in Figure 8. This step allows a complex decision to be structured into a hierarchy descending from an overall objective to various 'criteria', 'sub-criteria', and so on until the lowest level. The objective or the overall goal of the decision is represented at the top level of the hierarchy. The criteria and sub-criteria contributing to the decision are represented at the intermediate levels. Finally, the decision alternatives or selection, and using people's perspectives. He further notes that there is no set of procedures for generating the levels to be included in the hierarchy. Zahedi [4] comments that the structure of the hierarchy depends upon the nature or type of managerial decision. Also, the number of the levels in a hierarchy depends on the complexity of the problem being analyzed and the degree of detail of the problem that an analyst requires to solve [3]. As such, the hierarchy depends on the complexity of the problem being analyzed and the degree of detail of the problem that an analyst requires to solve [3]. As such, the hiera

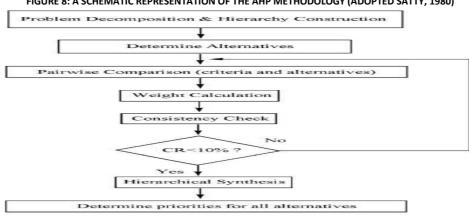


FIGURE 8: A SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE AHP METHODOLOGY (ADOPTED SATTY, 1980)

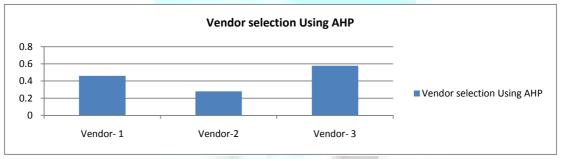
TABLE 3: OVERALL RATING OF THREE VENDORS INDENTIFY BY COMPANY USING AHP

Issues	Sub criteria	Weight	Local weight		Global weight			
Cost			V-1	V-2	V-3	V-1	V-2	V-3
С	C-1	0.746	0.0315	0.3020	0.6660	0.00392	0.0377	0.0832
0.1675	C-2	0.176	0.0698	0.2573	0.6718	0.00205	0.00758	0.0198
	C-3	0.022	0.1102	03230	0.5675	0.00040	0.00119	0.0020
	C-4	0.056	0.0743	0.6021	0.3233	0.00069	0.00564	0.0030
Quality	Q-1	0.660	0.0525	0.02568	0.6908	0.0256	0.1254	0.330
Q	Q-2	0.2062	0.0625	0.1830	0.7543	0.0095	0.0279	0.1140
0.7402	Q-3	0.0761	0.7268	0.0759	0.1973	0.0409	0.0042	0.0111
	Q-3	0.5750	0.7799	0.1603	0.0595	0.3319	0.0682	0.0253
Service	S-1	0.6042	0.7608	0.00613	0.2326	0.0428	0.000345	0.0130
S	S-2	0.1189	0.7866	0.0332	0.180	0.00817	0.00367	0.00199
0.0932	S-3	0.0689	0.2960	0.0850	0.6183	0.00190	0.00540	0.00397
	S-4	0.0211	0.7010	0.0970	0.250	0.00137	0.00190	0.00491
						0.4612	0.2793	0.5770

TABLE 4: VENDOR RANKING USING AHP METHOD

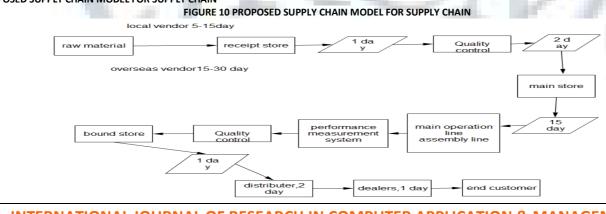
Vendor Rating	Vendor 1	Vendor 2	Vendor 3	
AHP	0.4612	0.2793	0.5770	
Rank	2	3	1	

FIGURE 9: OVER ALL COMPARISON OF VENDOR'S PERFORMANCE USING AHP



RESULTS OF AHP MODEL

In Table 3 and 4 based on the comparison of vendors and the methods applied it can be seen that vendor 3 is the preferred, since it has the highest weight of (0.5770) among three vendors. Vendor 1 is at the second choice (0.4612) and vendor 2 is at the last choice (0.2793. Figure 4 and table 9 explains the overall comparison of vendor ratings using AHP in the form of bar charts whose values are shown in Figure 4. Interestingly, the finding using the AHP approach is consistent with the determined vendor selection. It can be claimed that in this instance there are no clear decisions as to the best option especially between vendor 3 and vendor 1 since the difference is very low. In practice, sensitivity analysis should be carried out to determine the robustness of such decisions with respect to variations in the pair-wise rankings. An analysis can be made based on the changes in the significance of each sub-factor relative to others. PROPOSED SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL FOR SUPPLY CHAIN



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S.No.	Attributes.	Existing System.	Proposed System.
1.	Lead Time	High	Low
2.	Inventory	High	Reduced
3.	Quality of Service	Poor	Improved
4.	Information System	Ineffective	Effective
5.	Material Flow	Complex	Smooth
6.	Transportation Cost	High	Reduced
7.	Stock out	High	Reduced
8.	Sales	Low	Improved
9.	Documentation	Unstructured	Structured
10.	Vendor Rating	Absent	Initiated
11.	Spoilage	High and ignored	Decreased and Recycled
12.	Quality Assurance	Absent	Designed
13.	Customer Feedback	Absent	Initiated
14.	Supply Chain	Fragmented	Integrated

TABLE 5: COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED MODEL OF SUPPLY CHAIN

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

- The existing supply chain of XYZ was reviewed and opportunities available for improvement have been identified.
- The existing planning process has been revised to make it more responsive to the market
- A strategic decision model using AHP framework for improving inbound logistics and good manufacturer-supplier relationship has been developed. The model contains inbuilt flexibility and it will be helpful to the XYZ Ltd. to meets the changing demand of the end customer.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO COMPANY

- By implementing the suggested models the company will be able to meets the customer's expectation with desired flexibility. The models are flexible enough to react quickly to changing market scenario.
- Necessary change for improvement is thus possible as a result of inbuilt flexibility in the model.
- Rapid introduction of new or modified product.
- By sharing information, supply chain partners will be able to respond more rapidly to known demand and to do so with less inventory in the system as a whole and hence at lower cost.
- Reduction in lead-time of vendors due to online procurement and low operating costs by collaborated planning among the supply chain partners.

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

This project concerned itself with developing a decision support model and performance measurement frame work which could give the management of XYZ Limited the flexibility and support to take strategic level, operational level and planning and control decisions effectively. A system analysis indicated that the flow of materials and information in the supply chain is complex with logistics strategy, changing demand and multiple parts, a choice of different objectives by the manager and the uncertainties associated with them. Due to these complexities, there is scope for assisting the managers to improve the decision effectiveness by using the developed models. Part of the difficulty in analytically modelling strategic decisions is their basis on quantitative and qualitative information with multiple dimensions. A quantitative model that can be used to integrate qualitative information and quantitative values and analysis is the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) but a primary limitation is that its basic relationships do not allow for an integrated dynamic modelling of the environment. AHP assumes the system elements are uncorrelated and are single directionally influenced by a hierarchical relationship. The advantage of this approach helps management to better structure the decision to approach towards flexible supplier-manufacturer relationship with trust in online procurement. It also provides a structure for an organization to develop and enhance a logistics strategy. This analysis framework can be used for selection or justification of various logistics strategies and systems for trust building e-markets.

All the above models were discussed with the management of XYZ and management had appreciated the work done under this project.

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