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SIGNIFICANCE OF TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS FROM SMES SECTOR

FAROOQ ANWAR ASST. PROFESSOR CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SUPERIOR UNIVERSITY LAHORE, PAKISTAN

IRFAN SALEEM LECTURER FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL PUNJAB LAHORE, PAKISTAN

AYESHA ZAHID ASST. DIRECTOR (RESEARCH PROGRAM) SUPERIOR UNIVERSITY LAHORE, PAKISTAN

ABSTRACT

Significance of TQM in SME Sector of Pakistan as being catalyst for economic development is undeniable, nevertheless this is unfortunate that despite these implications, little research is undertaken to comprehend the complex nature of SME. Focus of this research is to access the significance of TQM on Organizational Performance (OP). The effects of five dimensions of TQM were individually examined on the OP. Findings of research show significant positive relationship of TQM with OP.

KEYWORDS

Total Quality Management (TQM), Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Organizational Performance (OP) and Quality Management System.

INTRODUCTION

n Pakistani economy, SMEs represented almost 90% of all the enterprises in Pakistan employing 78% of industrial labour force and out of which more than half are involved in business of trade, wholesale, retail, restaurants employing less than 5 persons (Rohra et al, 2009). Based on these facts it is required to conduct a research in this unexplored and undocumented economy of Pakistan contributing lot. For achieving customer satisfaction and competitive edge in today's fierce competitive world, quality is vital to all organizations. Quality has become a vital element because the variety of products and services are available in the market place and to get successful business the survival of an organization heavily depends on quality of products being delivered and services being provided. For achieving customer satisfaction and competitive edge in today's fierce competitive world quality is vital to all organisations. Quality has become a vital element because the variety of products and services are available in the market place therefore; the survival of an organization heavily depends on quality. There is significant need to identify relationships among the quality practices which in turn will enhance the organization's performance (Talib, Raman and Qureshi, 2011). Concept of quality has grown rapidly Last three decades, starting with the descriptions of the quality management gurus Crosby, Deming, Juran, Feigenbaum, Taguchi, Ishikawa, Groocock, and others; nonetheless, the discipline of Total Quality Management has witnessed significant contributions in terms of theory development from many researchers (Al-Swidi and Mahmod, 2011). There is also an increasing recognition of the potential contribution of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) towards employment and economic growth in Pakistan (Bhutta el al, 2009). SMEs are a vital, innovative, dynamic life-force and breathing apparatus of Pakistan's economic Growth (Seth, 2010). Dasanayaka (2008) study shows that there is no universally acceptable official definition for SMEs in Pakistan like any other developing nation and all the existing definitions depend on convenience and objectivity of studying SMEs. Thus Most of these organizations used various terms for SMEs such as Micro Enterprises, Rural Enterprises, Small and Medium Scale Activities, Cottage and Small Scale Industry, Informal Sector Activities and Micro and Small Scale Activities. Other studies shows that SME in Pakistan is defined as an enterprise with a maximum number of 250 employees, a paid up capital of up to Rs. 25 Million with annual sales amounting not more than Rs. 250 Million (Kureshi et al, 2009; Kureshi et al 2010).

LITERATURE REVIEW

SMEs due to their distinct and under cover nature to large organizations, was not addressed widely in literature and its dearth of literature specifically from definition to implementation issues were always highlighted (Romano & Ratnatunga, 1995). Though there was no standard SME definition around the globe but countries who show concern for SMEs have framed some variables for its categorization. The sector was so untapped in Pakistan that even there was no clear definition to distinguish SMEs with large enterprises (Dasanayaka, 2008). Pakistan SMEs are participating in almost all the sectors of the economy i.e. from agriculture to manufacturing and from services to trade. This parallax nature of SMEs did not allow anyone to frame its one common acceptable definition. It was defined by different authors, researchers and authorities differently and even addressed it with different names (Dasanayaka, 2008). After sixty years of independence in 2007, SMEDA took an initiative to propose the first ever definition with defined variables (SME policy 2007). A large number of enterprises always exist under the SMEs whichever the country is and whatever the definition being used. According to the Small and Medium Development Authority Pakistan (SMEDA) the small and medium enterprises constitute 90% of the total 3.2 million enterprises in Pakistan and contribute 30% of the GDP. Mostly SMEs in Pakistan are owned and run by their owners with support from their family members, relatives or friends (Dasanayaka, 2008). SMEs do not only vary in size but also in resources. They are facing many problems like access to credit, the high compliance cost of fiscal and non fiscal regulations, cost of unskilled human resource, high market transaction cost which results in low quality intermediary products and low quality raw material (Bari, Cheema and Hauque 2005). Also lacking physical, organizational and reputational resources, access to the required market information, non attention of government, lack of governmental support, (Berry 1998) and unhealthy competition with large organizations, still the SME sector is surviving and contributing in the underdeveloped economies. Whereas the policy support of many countries like Pakistan are far along (Berry 1998). Taking the data of sector contribution in the GDP, the manufacturing sector contributes 23% in the country's GDP growth which was 30% in 2004-05 that shows a decline. While analyzing the small scale manufacturing share in GDP, it is on the growth since 2005-06. (Economic Survey of Pakistan 2009-10). Bari et al. (2005) argued that those sectors have shown dynamic gains through

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learning which were dominated by SMEs because strong competition in SME sector innovate faster and easy entry allows greater experimentation which develops organizational and technological traits. While taking SMEs which are working as B2B firms, are even different and having much sense of maturity with respect to business principles and are playing very important role in creating a value for their customers while doing any job in value chain. In case of B2B the SMEs are serving to a small number of customers, sometimes it may be the only one customer. The level of strategy differences can also be seen in small, medium and large scale enterprises. Analoui and Karami (2003) also focus towards the large scale enterprises restrictive nature for innovative entrepreneurs and contrary to this is SME's friendly and flexible environment where all structures are not mature and not rigid as well. Some large organizations are very much quality conscious and as they have developed their brands so they need brand names to be protected by their quality products whereas SMEs also lack in quality products. Either they sell directly to consumers or the raw material which they want to be value added. The results of a study by Bayati and Taghavi (2007) conducted on 81 TQM certified SMEs in Tehran showed that Total Quality Management improves the performance of small and medium enterprises. A research conducted on 75 SMEs in Pakistan by Malik et al (2010) gives clear-cut evidence that ISO certified SMEs are performing better as compared to non certified SMEs. A survey of 20 companies undertaken by Sharma (2005) analyzed that TQM has an association with the financial performance of the organization. TQM enhances the competitiveness which also enhances customer satisfaction when customer satisfaction and competitiveness increases ultimately business performance increases. Lafuente et al (2009) found that TQM has positive impact on firm performance with respect to Return on Asset and labour productivity and this certification enhances the competition. A research conducted by Calisir et al. (2005) on the Turkish textile companies with a sample of 43 companies showed that the companies are satisfied with TQM. A research conducted by Capistrano (2008) in Philippine on 49 companies reported that TQM is not impacting company's financial performance in Philippines positively. Marti'nez-Costa and Marti'nez-Lorente (2007) analyzed impact of TQM on companies' performance by using a sample of 713 companies. The results of the study depict that the companies' performance has worsened after ISO certification. Sousa-Posa et al (2009) revealed that TQM only tells about the existence of the quality management system but does not guarantee its functionality. In order to improve the quality the organizations have developed some standard processes in which everyone from employees to customers would be able to participate to improve the quality (Okey and Semiz 2010). Total Quality Management standards are widely used by many firms and are perceived by many customers as synonymous of quality (Pina and Selle's, 2008).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section of the study will cover the research methodology of the research including the theoretical framework and followed by the discussion, conclusion and the suggestions for the future researchers. Theoretical framework was built on the basis of the reviewed previous literature. The independent variable which is based on the clauses of ISO 9000 standard. The dependent variables are partially based on the study of Feng et al (2008).

The questionnaire consisted of 43 items adopted from ISO 9000 official document has been designed using the clauses of Total Quality Management standard and the literature reviewed having a five point Likert Scale. Cronbach's Alpha is used to measure the internal consistency of the Questionnaire. The results of Cronbach's Alpha as shown in Table 1 reveal that management responsibility, documentation requirements of quality management system, resource management, product realization, measurement analysis and improvement, operational performance and business performance are reliable as they fall above the acceptable value of 0.70.

TABLE 1 CRONBACH'S ALPHA				
Variables	Cronbach's Alpha			
Management Responsibility	0.823			
Documentation Requirements of Quality Management System	0.784			
Resource Management	0.786			
Product Realization	0.805			
Measurement Analysis and Improvement	0.726			
Operational Performance	0.863			
Business Performance	0.721			

RESEARCH VARIABLES

Organizations from can be expected to yield better performance from their quality activities given greater involvement of all in the organization and a commitment to the principles of quality (Prajogo and Brown, 2006). Organizational Performance often dependent on managers' skill of converting knowledge into action, nevertheless, Knowledge and information are obviously crucial to performance (Pfeffer and Sutton, 2000). The dependent variable is Organizational Performance which is further divided into two sub variables including Business Performance and Operational Performance. Productivity is one of the measure business performances (Belay, 2011). The independent variable is Adoption of TQM which is further divided into sub variables including Management System, Resource Management, Product Realization and Measurement Analysis & Improvement. The driving force behind the quality strategy developed is management improvement (Pina and Selle's, 2008).

Past researches have explained the relationship of Total Quality Management with the operational and business performance. Briscoe et al. (2005) in a survey of 3671 companies examined a positive impact of Total Quality Management on operational and market performance. Research analysis suggests on recent study shows that education, generation setting up the business, owner habits (watching television, reading newspapers and using computers for office work) and number of partners have a significant relationship with the health of SMEs i.e. Organizational Performance (Khurrum et al, 2008). A study was conducted by Feng et al. (2008) in Australia and New Zealand of 3000 Total Quality Management organizations revealed that there is a positive relationship of TQM with operational performance while a weak relation of TQM with business performance. There exists a direct relationship between Total Quality Management and company's business performance improvement (Belay et al, 2011). A Turkish study by Semiz and Okey (2010) found that there is reduction in cost and increase in competition, level of achieving objectives and satisfaction level of managers after acquiring the TQM. A research conducted on 32 ISO 9000 certified Spanish companies by Pina and Trigueros (2008) showed that reason behind the implementation of ISO 9000 Quality Management System is the customer satisfaction and management improvement. Competition is also a reason but most companies did not bother it. Study by Cagnazzo et al (2010) in Italy with the sample of 366 companies explained that impact of TQM on internal operations is more than the impact on external operations that leads to another fact that companies obtain TQM mostly for the improvement in their internal processes. A research conducted by Han et al (2007) showed that TQM do not directly affected Business Performance but only affected TQM and competitiveness directly. The case study of eight small firms in Pakistan was conducted which concluded that the firms were not marketing oriented a

- Proposition: There is significant relationship of TQM with Organizational Performance (OP).
- P1: There is significant relationship between management responsibility and OP.
- P2: There is significant relationship between documentation requirements of quality management system and OP.
- P3: There is significant relationship between resource management and OP.
- P4: There is significant relationship between product realization and OP
 - There is significant relationship between measurement analysis & improvement and OP.

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

P5:

A survey methodology was employed for data gathering. The survey tool used was questionnaire. On the basis of convenient sampling 250 organizations were sent questionnaire through mail at various cities of Pakistan including Lahore, Sialkot and Multan. Finally 50 SMEs correctly filled questionnaires were selected from a variety of industries comprising manufacturers and exporters with response rate of 25%. The demographics of the respondents are given in Table 2.

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TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS Management position of persons filled-out questionnaire Top Managers Middle Managers Supervisors Size of sample SMEs 1-50 Employees

 Supervisors
 06%

 1-50
 Employees
 22%

 51-100
 Employees
 32%

 101-150
 Employees
 26%

 151-200
 Employees
 08%

 201-250
 Employees
 12%

52%

36%

FINDINGS

The results from previous section indicate positive and significant relationship of TQM (management responsibility, documentation requirements of quality management system, resource management, product realization and measurement analysis & improvement with Organizational Performance. Correlation is used to measure the strength and direction of relationship between independent and dependent variables. The results of correlation analysis are shown in Table 3. The correlation of TQM with OP is also positive which shows that with the implementation of TQM improves OP (0.519) which is significant at 99% confidence level. In depth analysis Results of Table 3 depicts that there is significant positive correlation between the variables because the correlation for all variables fall in the range 0.3 < r < 1.0. The correlation values of management responsibility (0.405), documentation requirements of quality management system (0.307), resource management (0.374), product realization (0.389), measurement analysis and improvement (0.502) with OP are positive and significant.

TABLE 3: CORRELATION BETWEEN TQM & OP			
Variables	Organizational Performance (OP)		
Total Quality Management (Overall)	0.519**		
Management Responsibility	0.405**		
Documentation Requirements of Quality Management System	0.307*		
Resource Management	0.374**		
Product Realization	0.389**		
Measurement Analysis and Improvement	0.502**		
**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)			
*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)			

DISCUSSION

The results prove that there is a positive relationship of Total Quality Management with business and operational performance. Study findings are consistent with the research findings of Briscoe et al (2005) showing a positive relationship between TQM and market performance. The study carried out by Cognazzo et al (2010) explains the impact of TQM on the Organizational Performance. Study by Feng et al (2008) studied the impact of ISO 9000 on OP findings are consistent with our findings. A study by Han et al (2007) measure the effect of ISO 9000 on business performance by studying two performance measures; profit and market share. Though the performance measures used by the study differ from this work the conclusion is the same that is there is a positive relation between ISO 9000 and business performance. However our findings are inconsistent with Martinez-Costa and Martinez-Lorente (2007) showing that operational costs increased and the sales did not compensate the increased costs due to which company's operational performance worsened after TQM.

CONCLUSION

This study is like an addition of a drop of water to the ocean but if we talk only of the works done in Pakistan, it is one of very few works done to assess the impact of Total Quality Management on small and medium enterprise's performance. This study could also be used to shed light on the importance of acquiring the certification and developing a quality culture. If a significant percentage of small and medium enterprises that are not currently using a quality management system is enlightened by this study, the overall image of Pakistani products in international markets would increase. Hence this work could become a major contributor towards the economic growth and prosperity of Pakistan as the facts and statistical figures show that 93% of businesses run in Pakistan are small and medium enterprises.

Future studies can be conducted in Pakistan to assess the impact of ISO 9000 on operational and business performance using different performance measures such as total productivity, cost of quality and customer satisfaction. Another issue that need to be addressed is whether total quality management should be implemented first followed by TQM or should it be other way around due to the fact there is confusion across the globe regarding this issue. A lay man would think total quality management is a prerequisite for TQM but studies supporting this argument are insufficient. Furthermore the researchers can conduct researches to analyze the impact of Total Quality Management on financial and market performance.

This research has work accesses the impact of Total Quality Management on the operational and business performance of the SMEs in Pakistan showing that the TQM being a clear guideline of quality management system for any organization. TQM plays a vital role in boosting the performance of any organization if implemented properly. The SME sector is the backbone of the Pakistani economy so the proper implementation of Total Quality Management could give some tremendous results by enhancing the performance of the organizations contributing in the economy of the country.

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