
Editorial

Rameshwar Dubey

Symbiosis Institute of Operations Management
(Constituent of Symbiosis International University),
Plot No. A-23, Shravan Sector, CIDCO,
New Nashik-422008, India
Email: rameshwar.dubey@siom.in
Email: rameshwardubey@gmail.com

Biographical notes: Rameshwar Dubey is currently working as an Associate Professor at Symbiosis International University. His research interests lies in sustainable supply chain network, humanitarian supply chain network and sustainable manufacturing practices. At present, he and his colleagues are attempting to examine current operations management theories using big data. Beside teaching and full time research, he is actively engaged in organising research methodology workshops for PhD scholars and faculty members. He is having over 50 research publications indexed in Scopus, SCI, SSCI and other sources. He has been a Guest Editor with reputable publishing houses like Inderscience, Springer and Elsevier.

1 Introduction

In recent years, due to rapid change in climate and increased awareness among customers, the firms have now embraced sustainability as one of the guiding organisational philosophy. Ageron et al. (2012) have argued that sustainable supply chain network design (SSCND) can play a differentiating role in overall organisational success. Gunasekaran and Spalanzani (2012) have noted that benefits of sustainability program, revolves around innovation, collaboration and transparency. Carter and Rogers (2008) have argued the need for extending green supply chain management (GSCM) concept to sustainable supply chain management (SSCM). We have noted that in recent years, scholars have made significant contribution towards SSCND literature. The sustainability can only be achieved by optimising between three objectives, i.e., 'profit, planet and people'. Corominas (2013) argued in one of the articles that supply chain or SCM to be replaced with more comprehensive term, 'supply chain network' or 'supply chain network management'. We further support the statement of Corominas (2013) and extend it to SSCND.

However, except little literature, majority of the literature have failed to address social and environmental related issues. Even majority of the articles which has attempted to include carbon emissions as one of the objective; however, other issues related to environmental dimensions were not adequately addressed. These gaps may be largely attributed to the biasness towards particular methodology. Hence, there is pressing need for embracing mixed research design to address key concerns surrounding SSCND.

Hence, the objective of the present special issue is to advance the current SCND literature. To address the objective, we have invited articles using both rationalist and alternative methods.

2 Uniqueness of the special issue

Melnyk et al. (2009, 2013) argued in their articles that there is lack of method or tools to design a sustainable supply chain network. Hence, there is lack of consistencies among approaches adopted by the researchers in past to design a supply chain network. Second, the most important issue which makes the supply chain network design, task a most difficult puzzle which most of the times remain unresolved, and is due to ‘uncertainty’. Hence, through the SI, we have invited some original contributions from researchers who have attempted to address the issues related to SSCND. In this special issue, we have received significant response and after rigorous double blind review and based on recommendations of the reviewers, we have finally accepted five manuscripts after major revisions in the direction to improve the overall presentation, methodology, discussions and further research directions section.

References

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