

Characteristics of Automotive Supply Chains - An Exploratory Study

Sanjay Jharkharia
Professor, Quantitative Methods and Operations Management Area
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
Kozhikode (Kerala), 673570
India

Abstract

Automotive sector is often regarded as the flagship sector in the implementation of many popular practices of operations management such as JIT, TQM, SCM etc. The auto sector traditionally provides lessons in improving the productivity for firms in other industries. Some factors such as complex design and manufacturing processes of the final product, longer lead times; involvement of a large number of suppliers and cut-throat global competition makes this sector an interesting case of SCM implementation. In this paper, we have made an attempt to study the characteristic features of automotive supply chains, which make this sector different from others. It is observed from the study that buyer-supplier relationships, responsiveness, IT applications etc play crucial role in the success of automotive supply chains. It is also observed from the study that Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) have the capability to play a significant role in strengthening the supply chains of the auto sector.

Keywords

Automotive Sector, Supply Chain, Buyer-suppliers

Biography

Sanjay Jharkharia is Professor of Operations Management at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (India). He has done his graduation in Mechanical Engineering. He got his Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, India and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. His papers have appeared in leading journals in Operations Management domain such as Omega, Supply Chain Management Journal, International Journal of Production and Operations Management. His research interests include Supply Chain Management, Operations Management and Strategy, Multi-criteria Decision Making, Fresh and Perishable Supply Chains, ERP etc.