

Editorial

Published by the Institute of Management Studies, Ghaziabad, 'Journal of IMS Group' (Listed in Cabell's Management Directory, USA) has always relied upon the strong support of academicians and practitioners to help ensure that the quality of the Journal has been maintained. From our valued Advisory and Editorial Board members to the countless referees, authors, book reviewers and subscribers, the Journal remains a testimony to the commitment of many to keep the light shining bright on current Management / IT / Computer Applications related issues.

In our continuous endeavor to bring global perspective in the field of Management & IT, we have taken yet another major step forward. We bring you, in this current issue with the theme, "Supply Chain & Logistics Management", some of the selected articles which throw light on this theme with different perspectives. The current issue is a colloquium of nine chosen articles/ research papers, which have been hand-picked from number of contributions received from the academicians and working professionals.

The first article "The Strategic Intelligence and Knowledge Creation: A Brazilian Case" authored by Ana Cristina Fachinelli, Cintia Paese Giacomello, Eric Dorion, Jane Rech, examines the role and concept of Strategic Intelligence in small companies and also in small organisations. It has been pointed out that in both the cases the transformation of information into organised and dynamic knowledge indicates level of development of strategic intelligence.

In the next article "Supply Chain Architecture of Cement Industry - Case Study Approach", authored by Rameshwar Dubey and Tripti Singh, the researchers have tried to develop blue print (Supply Chain Architecture) using Theory of Constraints (TOC) and to develop linear programming (LP) model, keeping logistics, marketing and external constraints. A case study of India's largest cement industry has been done in the process.

The third article "Greening the Supply Chain", authored by Dr. Sarbani Mitra, Dr. K. M. Agrawal, and Dr. S. N. Ray, discusses the prospects and implementation strategies of Green Supply Chain Management. The impact of Green to Supply Chain Management has been described as the main objective of the paper.

The next in the line is an article entitled "A Production - Inventory Model in a Supply Chain with Imperfect Production Process and Exponential Deterioration of Units" authored by Nita H. Shah and Chandra K. Jaggi. The main objective of this research paper is to minimize the joint total cost. It is concluded that the joint decision lowers the optimal joint cost compared with independent decisions of the manufacturer and the retailer.

The fifth article "Variant Constraint of Time Minimization Assignment Problem for Three Machines - A Lexi Search Approach" written by Nagaraju Animoni, V.V.Hara Gopal, S.N. Narahari Pandit is next in the series. The article has tried to explain that if there are m machines for carrying out n jobs ($m < n$) out of the n jobs k jobs are necessary to be done on the

Contd.....

Editorial

available machines. Each job has to be done only on one of the machines (i.e. one can not start processing a job on one machine and halfway shift it to another machine).

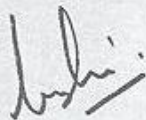
The next paper entitled "Optimal Search Techniques for Supply Chain Optimization", authored by V.Kalyana Chakravarthy, Dr. V.V.Venkata Ramana and Dr C. Uma Shankar, attempts to analyse the supply and demand scenario in the case of discrete assignment problem for optimal solution of the problem search methods like Lexi Search Approach with Pattern Recognition and genetic algorithm.

The next paper authored by Dr Sadia Samar Ali and Dr. R. K. Bharadwaj entitled "Conceptual Framework for Reliability under Preventive Maintenance", shows how preventive maintenance has an impact on different life-time distributions. Maintenance plays an important role in reliability theory and it increases the lifetime of an item or system at lower cost. So, it examines the proposition in some details on the basis of a failure-time model that relates conformance quality to reliability.

The article entitled "Performance Improvement in Supply Chain Using Statistical / Management Techniques" written by Dr. N.K.Singh is next in the series of publication. This paper is the brief discussion of application of various statistical/ management techniques e.g. Seven SQC Tools, ISO 9000, Six Sigma, TQM and BPR which are helpful in planning, establishing, implementing, and continually improving various processes of the Supply Chain Management.

In the last article "Supply Chain Management: An Integrated Approach for Effective Management - A Case Study" authored by A. Jayant, S. Kumar P.Gupta and S.K.Garg, the supply chain of the company has been thoroughly examined to sort out the excess inventory related problems with a new proposed model and recommendations for reduction of variation in demand and supply. Use of six sigma methodology has been emphasized for solving problems in business processes in a sequential manner.

We extend our sincere thanks to the distinguished Guest Editors & all the contributors of the current volume & hope to have their patronage in future also. Further, we will highly appreciate contributions in the form of research papers/ articles from all the sections of Academia & Industry. The valuable suggestions are always welcome to make future issues more qualitative and beneficial for all.



(Dr. Urvashi Makkar)
Editor-in- Chief