Guest editorial

1. Green supply chains and environmental benchmarking – implications for emerging economies

Green supply chain management (GSCM) has been acknowledged as an important business strategy to achieve economic objectives by reducing environmental risks of the supply chain (SC) processes and operations. Conceptually, GSCM spans over the intersecting concepts of environmental management and supply chain management (SCM), and is principally focussed on minimising environmental impacts while maintaining a balance of SC performance with the environmental measures (Sarkis, 2012). Globally, organisations are striving hard to increase the sustainability of their operations, and thus, putting great efforts and resources into the greening of their SC operations. However, there have been mixed responses from practitioners in developing countries. Scholars have previously reported positive impacts of GSCM adoption in emerging economies. However, the organisations have been struggled in adopting GSCM in their operations (Ahmed *et al.*, 2018). The concept of GSCM is relatively unexplored in emerging economies as business organisations lacks in its implementation (Gandhi *et al.*, 2016). In this sense, there is a great need to understand the implications and application of GSCM from an operational context. Further, managers and practitioners are also seeking to benchmark the GSCM practices for improving their green performance. The special issue (SI) of *Management of Environmental Quality*, Green *Supply Chains and Environmental Benchmarking – Implications for Emerging Economies*, explores this broad view of GSCM specifically from an emerging economy perspective. Relevant contributions with conceptual/empirical/case studies/modelling-based approaches were received, which are briefed in the next section.

2. The contributions of SI

This SI has received an excellent response from scholars across the world; however, owing to the thematic and space restrictions, 17 articles were accepted after a thorough review process. The contributions made by accepted 17 research articles are thematically summarised in Table 1 as follows:

3. Final takeaway

The SI attracted research articles from a broad perspective on GSCM such as closed-loop SC, reverse logistics, circular SC, recycling, humanitarian operations, drivers, barriers and enablers of GSCM. From a methodological perspective, varied qualitative and quantitative methodologies were used, such as MCDM techniques like ISM, AHP, BWM; regression and empirical analysis, MILP and multi-objective optimisation. The accepted studies were not only focussed on environmental aspects but also focussed on economic as well as social perspectives. From a sector specific context, the accepted papers studied varied industries such as chemical, construction, energy, logistics, etc. in terms of GSCM adoption. Including studies from such diverse industries, this SI would help in adoption GSCM in emerging economies to achieve the 12 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for responsible consumption and production. Future research in GSCM in context of emerging economies may focus on the following aspects:

(1) Policy enablers to boost the adoption of GSCM in emerging economies.

(2) Study economic incentives for adopting GSCM in developing economies.

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S. No	Authors	Brief description	Methodology
1	Sunit Chandak *et al.*	They studied the enablers for supply chain performance based on e-process and sustainability	ISM-fuzzy-MICMAC.
2	Gunjan Soni *et al.*	They identified the economic, environmental, and social drivers and barriers for sustainable SCM (SSCM) in the Indian stone and marble industry	ISM-MICMAC.
3	Manju Saroha *et al.*	They ranked the pressures to circular SCM implementation for sustainability in Indian industries	Fuzzy-AHP
4	Surajit Bag *et al.*	They modelled the enablers of green humanitarian SC for improving responsiveness	fuzzy-TISM
5	Ravindra Baliga *et al.*	Using the antecedent-practice-performance, it analyses the drivers for SSCM practices and the impact of these practices on SSCM performance	SEM
6	Nikhil Dhakate *et al.*	They analysed the inhibitors for organ recycling in healthcare SC	Delphi-ISM-Regression
7	Surbhi Uniyal *et al.*	They prioritized the sustainable production and consumption from a SC context	Best-worst method (BWM)
8	Saurabh Agrawal *et al.*	They studied the relationship of product return forecasts with reverse logistics performance	PLS-path modelling
9	Yiğit Kazançoğlu *et al.*	They provided sustainability benchmarking of a location selection problem for logistics centre	AHP-PROMETHEE
10	Waqar Ahmed *et al.*	They examined the impact of GSCM and institutional pressures on economic and environmental firm performance	SEM
11	Shohanuzzaman Shohan	They studied the factors for implementations of GSCM in the chemical industry of Bangladesh	ISM-MICMAC
12	Anchal Gupta	They studied the sustainable practices of an Indian logistics service provider for quality and operational excellence	Case analysis, SWOT analysis
13	Deepak Sangroya *et al.*	They examined the current state, future avenues and barriers for green energy management in India	Literature survey
14	Younis Jabarzadeh *et al.*	They presented a closed-loop SC model for perishable products to optimise sustainability measures	Multi-objective MILP
15	Sreejith Balasubramanian *et al.*	They studied the difference between SMEs and large firms from GSCM implementation perspective	Hypothesis testing
16	Henrique Guilherme da Silva *et al.*	They identified the sustainability indicators for lean and clean production practices and performance in sand mould castings companies	Qualitative analysis
17	Jaber Valizadeh *et al.*	They proposed a vehicle routing model for urban waste collection and energy generation	Multi-objective optimisation

Note(s): Due to space limitations, the referencing details of all accepted papers are not included in this editorial

Table 1. Contributions made by accepted articles

(3) Impact of disruptive technologies on green performance.

(4) Investigate green performance through life cycle assessment of products and services

(5) Examine GSCM adoption during disruptions and or crisis.

(6) Accountability and reporting in GSCM adoption.

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References

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Gandhi, S., Mangla, S.K., Kumar, P. and Kumar, D. (2016), "A combined approach using AHP and DEMATEL for evaluating success factors in implementation of green supply chain management in Indian manufacturing industries", *International Journal of Logistics Research and Applications*, Vol. 19 No. 6, pp. 537-561.

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