

**EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF SUPPLY CHAIN
TRACEABILITY ON PROCUREMENT: A SINGLE
CASE STUDY FROM THE APPAREL INDUSTRY**

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Management

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August 2024

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DECLARATION

“I declare that this is my own work and this thesis/dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgment is made in the text.

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Name of the supervisor: Dr. Biman Hettiarachchi

Signature of the supervisor:

Date : 24/08/2024

ABSTRACT

Supply chain traceability is becoming a competitive advantage for industries that depend highly on customers. Apparel is one of the most impactful industries that heavily relies on customers. Many European and US clothing brands are implementing several standard and sustainable practices throughout the supply chain considering the social and ethical behaviors and customers' perceptions. The ultimate goal is to create a platform for the final customer to have the yarn level details, at the moment of purchasing the product. Further, it has been identified that there is a lack of discussion about the impact of traceability on SC functions that support managing a proper information flow. Moreover, the literature highlighted that procurement is a function that links the supply chain partners by maintaining the information flow throughout the upstream and downstream supply chain. Hence, this study analyses the impact of supply chain traceability on the procurement activities in the apparel industry. The study employs the case study method by interviewing ten participants currently working in the procurement team at the selected organization and gathering the data through semi-structured questions. The study leads the discussion upon the findings by exploring how SC traceability impacts procurement in the apparel industry. Moreover, it finds the highest-impacted procurement activity as "Managing SC risk sources" and the least-impacted procurement activities as "Deciding the best transportation mode" by proving, that the impact of traceability on each procurement function is not the same in the apparel industry. Finally, the study emphasizes the necessity of creating the link among the supply chain partners which will ultimately benefit on achieving efficiency and accuracy in procurement functions.

Keywords – SC traceability, Role of procurement in apparel, Managing SC risk sources

DEDICATION

Dedicated to all the existing and future practitioners of supply chain in the apparel industry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'm grateful to Dr. Indika Sigera (Senior Lecturer, Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa) for giving me this opportunity. I would also like to thank Dr. Biman Hettiarachchi (Senior Lecturer, Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa) for the immense support and inspiration provided to me during this research. Also, for giving advice as my research supervisor.

Also, I would like to thank, the selected apparel manufacturer for allowing me to interview and to observe the industry which helped me in building the case studies.

I also want to pass my gratitude to all the academic and non-academic staff in the Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering for helping me in many ways to make this a success.

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