Sustainable Supply Chain Management:
A Literature Review and Implications for Future Research

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ABSTRACT
Sustainability, the simultaneous management of economic, environmental and social dimensions in a supply chain is a challenging research area in supply chain management. Researchers have adopted different techniques to integrate the three components of sustainability. But the relationship between different sustainability initiatives and the performance outcomes are still to be analyzed systematically. In the present study, the review of various works published in sustainable supply chain management domain is carried out with a hybrid method of meta-analysis and content analysis. The research papers were selected based on different theories of sustainable development. The theories considered in the present study are the following: theory of population ecology, resource-based view theory, natural resource-based view theory, resource dependence theory, stakeholder theory, and transaction cost economics theory. The developments in the sustainable supply chain management area and the methodologies used for modelling and analysis are reviewed using this hybrid method by carefully analyzing the literature published during the period 2005-2017. This review will enable researchers in identifying the potential areas for research on sustainable supply chain management.

KEYWORDS
Green Supply Chain Management, Literature Review, Sustainable Supply Chain Management, Triple Bottom Line

1. INTRODUCTION
The concept of supply chain management (SCM) has evolved as a branch of study over a period of time with the evolution started from the concept of materials management. The development of materials management concept started from the beginning of 1850 and it has gained importance during World War I. Consequently, over the period of time, it has gone to different stages of development and the concept of SCM started in the mid-1980s. The primary objective of every supply chain is to provide maximum satisfaction to the ultimate customer with the secondary objectives of profitability, reliability, flexibility/agility, responsiveness, high turnover rate and good communication and coordination throughout the supply chain. Traditionally, the performance of a supply chain is indicated by its economic performance. According to Seuring and Gold (2012), the major economic performance indicators of a supply chain are quality, speed, dependability, flexibility, and cost. The success of any supply chain is evaluated by the simultaneous achievement of these indicators which are the main challenges to any supply chain. Christopher (1992) defines supply chain management as “a network of organizations that are involved, through upstream and downstream linkages, in the different processes and activities that produce value in the form of products and services in the hands of the
ultimate customer”. Every supply chain is striving to achieve the best economic performance and now the concept of supply chain management has changed to sustainable supply chain management (SSCM). In SSCM, along with the economic aspect, the environmental and social aspects are also given equal priority.

Sustainable development is an evolving research area in the present scenario due to increasing environmental problems like ozone layer depletion, global warming, water scarcity, environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources and also due to social problems like violation of human rights and lack of community service. Sustainable development is defined as “the development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, also known as the Brundtland Commission)”.

Sustainable development has three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental, which is known as the triple bottom line (TBL) concept of sustainable development. Economic stability is important for an organization to survive, but it is not sufficient to sustain the organization in the long run if it causes irreversible damages to the ecosystem by emitting greenhouse gases (GHGs), toxic wastes and depleting non-renewable resources or if it fails to ensure safety, security, dignity, health care, minimum wage, indiscrimination, and better working conditions for its employees, the community, and the society in general (Mitra, 2014). Therefore, it has become important for any organization to behave in a socially and environmentally responsible manner while trying to achieve its economic goals.

2. INSIGHTS FROM PREVIOUS LITERATURE REVIEWS

The successful implementation of sustainability practices is a challenging task for any organisation and hence to develop a better understanding of the issues related to sustainability implementation, a systematic literature review based on a hybrid model of meta-analysis and content analysis is proposed in this paper. There have been several review papers published in SSCM area and these review papers are only partially explaining the research methodology issues in SSCM and only a few papers explain the different models and methods used for SSCM analysis.

Rajeev et al. (2017) have studied the evolution of sustainability through the analysis of 1068 peer reviewed journal papers published during the period 2000 – 2015. The researchers have also presented a detailed study on 190 papers which cover the three pillars (economic, environmental and social) of sustainability. The researchers have concluded that the research papers covering all the three pillars of sustainability and social dimensions are very less in number and industry specific studies are required to tackle the sustainability issues especially in emerging economies.

Eskandarpour et al. (2015) have reviewed important research papers related to supply chain network design problems that consider at least two of the three dimensions (economic, environmental and social) of sustainable development. Eighty-seven research papers published in forty one international peer reviewed journals dealing with mathematical optimization modelling of various sustainability related problems were analysed. The researchers have found that seventy-four research articles considered environmental and economic dimensions simultaneously, three research papers considered economic and social dimensions simultaneously while ten research articles considered all three dimensions simultaneously. The researchers have concluded that majority of the previous studies considered only economic and environmental dimensions while social dimensions are very rarely studied. The review paper published by Taşçıoğlu (2015) has analysed various definitions of sustainability, environmental and social aspects of sustainability and identified various directions for future research. The researcher recommends further research in social dimensions of sustainable development and states that experimental methodology has to be extensively used for analysing the social aspects of supply chain management.

Since the social dimension of sustainability has received lesser attention among the researchers, Yawar and Seuring (2015) have done a literature review to understand the relationship between social
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