

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY : FUTURE LEADERSHIP 2

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"As the backbone of any organization, supply chain management requires visionary leadership, cutting-edge technology, and a commitment to excellence."

Supply chain management (SCM) ensures smooth flow of materials from raw materials to finished goods. The management of supply chain is becoming more complex due to manmade disruptions like war, tariff, pandemic, political disturbance, global warming etc. and natural calamities like wild fire, drought, flood, cyclone etc. So, business need to be more resilient & better risk management are to be done to take care of the shocks and surprises.

There are various strategies that can be adopted. They are as follows

Technological Upgradation

Digitisation of supply chain is the most important strategy for supply chain leaders of present-day world. Digitization will enable improved efficiency, enhanced visibility, increased agility, cost reduction & better collaboration. Examples of digital solution in supply chain management are software, real time tracking of materials like GPRS & RFID, predictive analytics like demand forecasting etc., Artificial Intelligence, Internet of things like sensor use of various tools like AI, robotics, thus improving efficiency of supply chain function.

Resilience and Agility

An organization need to have a strategy which will enable robust supply chain and capacity to enable quick adaptation & response to changes. Strategic view of supply chain focusing on the design of the network to withstand unexpected shocks and disturbances. A classic example is

the successful management by Government of India in present world scenario in procurement of crude oil.

Transparency

There should be a clear visibility of supply chain managers about the whole supply chain starting from raw materials to finished goods customer demand and various risks associated with it. There should be a proper information channel, ethical & sustainable practices, proper material traceability mechanism, trust building with all stakeholders of the system, updating and implementation of various innovations.

"A successful Supply Chain Leadership approach involves the strategic orchestration of people, processes, and technology to drive competitiveness, foster collaboration and innovation, mitigate risks, and leverage digital transformation, ultimately optimizing the entire end-to-end (E2E) supply chain, from planning and procurement to manufacturing, logistics, and distribution."

Team Building

The two pillars of any team management are trust & transparency. Future leaders should develop a very transparent appraisal system which needs to be objective based and a well defined KRA for each member Training needs of all members are to be meticulously



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evaluated and necessary training schedules are to be planned annually. The leader should have a very clear idea about the marketability of their team members & need to ensure an atmosphere where each member has a very clear growth trajectory which will be motivational by itself. On the personal front a supply chain leader needs to be vigilant, tech savvy, should have fast adaptability to various changes as per organisation requirement, honest & creative.

Partnership with Vendors & Service Providers

Vendors should be considered as an extension of organisation not as separate entity. Vendor development both existing & new is very important for any organization. Creating a long term & sustainable relationship with vendors are very important.

A continuous process of evaluation to be done as a discipline to understand the capability of the vendors to support the organizational needs.

“To navigate the complexities of modern supply chains, organizations must adopt a strategic approach that prioritizes flexibility, collaboration, and transparency. This involves leveraging technology to streamline operations, building resilient teams, and fostering strong relationships with vendors and stakeholders. By doing so, businesses can better manage risk, improve efficiency, and achieve long-term success.”

As supply leaders navigate the complexities of global operations, they must confront a daunting question: Are we equipped to withstand the next major disruption?

The ability to effectively manage and respond to economic shifts, mitigate risks, and overcome challenges has become a critical competency for successful supply chain management. However, this ability is only the foundation upon which future ready leaders must build. To stay ahead of the curve, leaders must reassess and redefine their supply chain designs, organizational structures, and strategic plans.

Being resilient - able to absorb shocks and minimize disruption impact - is no longer sufficient. Tomorrow's supply chain leaders must go beyond resilience and develop the ability to thrive in uncertainty, creating value from it. This requires a new mindset, prioritizing proactive disruption management, continuous learning, and strategic risk-taking.

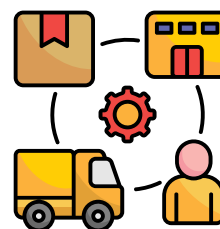
Supply chain leaders must anticipate and prepare for potential disruptions, adapt quickly to changing circumstances, and innovate in response to new challenges. By developing this capability, leaders can build supply chains that are resilient, agile, adaptable, and better equipped to handle future uncertainties. In the era of Leadership 2.0, supply chain executives must recognize that traditional supply chain management methods are no longer effective. They must challenge conventional wisdom, experiment with new approaches, and invest in their people's development. By fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and continuous learning, leaders can unlock their supply chains' full potential and drive sustainable growth in an uncertain world. To excel in today's complex supply chain landscape, leaders must adopt a Leadership 2.0 mindset, driving collaboration, innovation, and agility. This requires a deep understanding of the end-to-end supply chain and robust partnerships among stakeholders. Built on trust, open communication, and mutual benefit, these partnerships foster collective success, transparency, and efficiency. By nurturing this collaborative ecosystem, leaders can create a resilient supply chain that navigates complexity, mitigates risk, and drives long-term success.

Achieving this requires effective coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, spanning suppliers, manufacturers, logistics providers, and retailers.

By adopting this integrated approach, leaders can break down functional silos, promote transparency, and drive collective success across the entire supply chain ecosystem.

Conclusion

Supply Chain Management is the heart of any organisation. An efficient supply chain ensures availability of materials at right time of right quality in right place and at right price. So to ensure a smooth supply chain a supply chain manager in present day world need to have capacity to adopt latest technologies, develop a transparent and sustainable system, human centric and strong leadership quality. Embracing Leadership 2.0 is vital for supply chain excellence. Effective collaboration and strategic partnerships are key to unlocking transparency, efficiency, and collective success, enabling end-to-end supply chain optimization and reduced costs. By adopting this approach, leaders can achieve just-in-time delivery, future-proof their supply chains, and stay ahead in a rapidly changing landscape.



“To excel in today’s complex supply chain landscape, leaders must adopt a Leadership 2.0 mindset—fostering collaboration, innovation, and agility through deep end-to-end understanding and trust-based partnerships that enhance transparency, resilience, and long-term success.”