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From a systematic literature review to integrated definition for Sustainable Supply Chain Innovation (SSCI)

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Abstract:

The vast majority of supply-chain literature has focused on supply chain management, innovation and sustainability, separately. However, little supply-chain research focuses on innovation under the supply chain context, which is expected to deliver a sustainable outcome. Is it a great research opportunity to explore or a subject unworthy of studying? This paper offers a systematic literature review considering 107 related papers published from 1996 to 2014. In this review, both descriptive and thematic analyses demonstrate it to be a great research opportunity worthy of exploring. A conceptual framework containing the definition of sustainable supply chain innovation (SSCI) and its distinctive characteristics are proposed and identified. Furthermore, some opportunities for the research in future, such as antecedents to SSCI, are suggested and discussed in this paper. Both academics and practitioners in companies might find this review useful as it stimulates further research and guides sustainable supply chain innovation.

Keywords: Innovation; Supply chain management (SCM); Sustainable development; Sustainability; Supply chain innovation (SCI); Sustainable supply chain innovation (SSCI)

1. Introduction

Innovation was originally identified by Schumpeter (1934) as the ability to create economic value from new ideas; today, innovation is considered as a key determinant for organizational competitiveness and success (McAdam and Keogh, 2004). Innovation exhibits the direction and progress of the regional and world economic development (Yakovleva et al., 2015). For example, the first handheld mobile cellphone demonstrated by Motorola in 1973 was one of the great innovations in the world (Kempe, 2015). As the essayist Arthur C. Clarke predicted in his book *Profiles Of The Future*, "We will be able to call a person anywhere on Earth merely by dialing a number and no one need ever again be

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