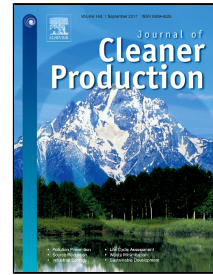


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A Comparative Exploration of Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma in terms of their Critical Success Factors



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## A Comparative Exploration of Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma in terms of their Critical Success Factors

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### Abstract

Lean manufacturing and six sigma methodologies have been widely used in a large number of companies worldwide. However, many companies have found it difficult to successfully implement and sustain lean manufacturing and six sigma. It is, therefore, very important for companies to identify and understand the critical success factors for successfully implementing either six sigma or lean manufacturing. A comparative examination of lean manufacturing versus six sigma was conducted, and the success factors relevant to these two methodologies were identified. It was found that the most important success factors differed in terms of their significance for six sigma and lean manufacturing. Specifically, for organizations that have successfully implemented six sigma, skills and expertise ranked highest in importance. In contrast, for organizations that have successfully implemented lean manufacturing, employee involvement and culture change ranked highest. This study builds on current knowledge and fills a gap in the literature by providing more insight into the most critical success factors within companies that have already successfully implemented these methodologies. The results of the study will help organizations to make more

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