

Abstract

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Clusters and supply chain management: challenges and obstacles

Purpose: This paper provides some insights into cluster supply chain (CSC) management to identify challenges and obstacles in the design, implementation and improvement of CSC and propose future research directions. **Research approach:** A systematic review of published research on CSC management - since it is initiated by Porter in 1998 up to now- is conducted in order to round up previous research in this area and identify the gaps in the design, implementation and management of CSC up on which the paper closes with a proposed agenda for future work. **Findings and Originality:** There is a significant lack of understanding of the concept SC cluster and the implementation of its practices in addition to the lack of studies that focused on how to model, manage and improve the performance of CSC. Therefore, this paper would contribute to knowledge by providing some insights into CSC management in order to identify future research directions for developing SC cluster theories in order to maximize the integration of SC and accordingly improving the performance of firms. **Research impact:** A limited number of studies have been conducted to demonstrate the potential impact of SC cluster. The previous research did not provide a comprehensive review focusing on the evolution and the development of SC cluster idea. The review in this paper will summarize the research made up to now in SC cluster area in order to identify challenges and obstacles in the design, implementation and improvement of CSC and propose future research directions. **Practical impact:** this paper helps companies to understand benefits that can be raised from creating SC cluster and gives them directions for improving their capabilities to create SC cluster and Select SC partners which consequently helps in increasing their competitiveness in terms of improving their performance and increasing their sustainability.