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Indemnifying Innovation in Supply Chain of manufacturing firms in Uganda Case Study Brow Plast industries Limited

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Abstract: *The research was done on Ugandan manufacturing companies' supply chains with regard to indemnifying innovation. The study found that innovation has a big impact on manufacturing companies' supply chains. A questionnaire and interview guide were utilized by the study to gather data. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in the data analysis.*

Keywords; Indemnifying, Innovation, supply chain, Manufacturing firms

1.0 Introduction

Muller M. (2011), claims that supply chain integration innovation can significantly improve collaboration, efficiency, and visibility throughout the whole supply chain. Here are two cutting-edge items that have surfaced in this market: Innovation in the supply chain is crucial for businesses of all sizes. It entails examining how a business uses its resources—including operational capital, assets, and capabilities—to create novel approaches to meeting the needs of its clients. Innovations should be valued according to how well they support client wants, according to businesses. This is a major advance in logistics that is just getting started. Autonomous vehicles, as the name implies, are ones that can function on their own. Autonomous vehicles streamline freight shipment, lower transportation costs, and improve product delivery.

1.2 The steps in supply chain and logistics services ;

Muller M. (2011), explains that understanding what your clients need and want from your supply chain and logistics services is the first step to innovation. Customer feedback can be gathered through a variety of techniques, including focus groups, interviews, questionnaires, and social media posts. Customer information, including purchase trends, preferences, grievances, and loyalty, can also be analyzed. Finding out what your clients need can help you find new ways to add value and help them with their difficulties.

Saleemi N. A. (2010), declares that Promote collaboration: The second stage to innovation is to promote cooperation among the parties involved in your supply chain and logistics, including partners, suppliers, staff members, and clients. Throughout your supply chain and logistics network, you can utilize a variety of tools and platforms to promote coordination, information sharing, and communication. Involve outside specialists or consultants, form cross-functional teams, and co-create solutions with clients. Fostering teamwork allows you to take advantage of different viewpoints, abilities, and assets to produce and assess creative ideas.

Arnold, J.R.T., S.N. Chapman and L.M. Clive (2011), explains that the third phase to innovation is to try new things and get knowledge from your supply chain and logistics projects. To test and confirm your ideas, you can employ a variety of techniques like simulation, pilot testing, controlled experiments, and prototyping. The effects of your innovations on cost, quality, service, and sustainability can also be measured and tracked. You may develop and enhance your concepts, recognize and reduce risks, and scale up innovative ideas by trying and learning.

Muller M. (2011), claims that rewarding and recognizing your supply chain and logistics innovators is the fourth phase in the innovation process. To encourage and show gratitude to your partners, customers, suppliers, and staff for their contributions to your innovation initiatives, you can implement a variety of reward and recognition programs. Additionally, you can acknowledge and disseminate your innovative accomplishments through case studies, testimonials, and prizes. You may encourage an innovative culture, motivate and empower your stakeholders, and maintain your innovation performance by rewarding and recognizing invention.

Kenneth Lyson and Brian Farrington (2006), claims that implementing digital technologies to improve your supply chain and logistics capabilities is the fifth step to innovation. Your supply chain and logistics processes can be automated, optimized, or transformed with the help of a variety of technologies, including artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing, and the internet of things. Digital channels like social media, smartphone apps, and e-commerce can also be used to interact, connect, and provide value to your clientele. You may improve the effectiveness, agility, visibility, and responsiveness of your supply chain and logistics operations by implementing digital technologies.

Arnold, J.R.T., S.N. Chapman and L.M. Clive (2011), claims that benchmarking and learning from the finest practices and trends in your field and beyond is the sixth step to innovation. To stay up to date with the most recent advancements and advances in supply chain and logistics, you can consult a variety of sources, including publications, journals, blogs, and podcasts. To network and share ideas with other supply chain and logistics experts, you can also go to or take part in events like conferences, webinars, or seminars. You can find and implement best practices, obtain knowledge and ideas, and foresee and adjust to shifting consumer and market expectations by benchmarking and learning.

1.3 Challenges faced in Supply Chain

Muller M. (2011), illustrates how putting new supply chain techniques into effect frequently requires large investments, which may have an immediate impact on profitability.

Kenneth Lyson and Brian Farrington (2006), argues that it can be difficult to integrate new technologies with current systems and that careful planning is needed to assure compatibility.

Arnold, J.R.T., S.N. Chapman and L.M. Clive (2011), claims that stakeholders' and employees' resistance to change might impede the effective adoption of innovative techniques.

Horst.T. (2011), claims that return on investment and cost implications: It's common for novel supply chain management techniques to necessitate large investments in infrastructure, technology, and training.

Muller M. (2011), indicates that before launching any innovation efforts, organizations must carefully consider the financial ramifications and the prospective return on investment (ROI). To convince stakeholders that the investments are worthwhile, it is essential to carry out in-depth cost-benefit studies and produce accurate financial projections.

Saleemi N. A. (2010), explains that problems with present systems' interoperability and integration: Systems and procedures that have been devised are already in place in many organizations.

Horst.T. (2011), states that integrating new supply chain methods with current ones, including warehouse management systems (WMS) or enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, may be necessary.

Muller M. (2011), explains that difficulties with implementation may arise from compatibility problems and the requirement for system updates or modifications. To prevent interruptions or inefficiencies, it is critical to conduct a complete assessment of the current systems and guarantee a smooth integration.

Arnold, J.R.T., S.N. Chapman and L.M. Clive (2011), clarifies that Employee and stakeholder resistance to change: Adopting innovative approaches frequently necessitates altering work procedures and mentalities. The effective implementation of new supply chain management techniques may be impeded by stakeholders and employees.

Bragg, M.S. (2013), asserts that it is critical to share the advantages of innovation, teach and assist staff, and include stakeholders in decision-making. Overcoming resistance and promoting a sense of ownership among staff members can aid in the successful implementation of new ideas.

1.4 Strategies for Successful Implementation of Innovative Supply Chain Management Practices

To overcome these challenges, businesses should adopt the following strategies:

Muller M. (2011), asserts that effective organizational support and strong leadership are necessary. Leaders must promote innovation and foster an environment that values trial and error as well as ongoing development. Executives at the top should promote innovation projects, supply the tools required, and foster an atmosphere that encourages testing and taking risks. Creating a department or team devoted to innovation helps stimulate creativity and guarantee ongoing development.

Arnold, J.R.T., S.N. Chapman and L.M. Clive (2011), elucidates how cooperation with suppliers and partners in technology Working together with suppliers and technology providers can make it easier for creative solutions that support corporate goals to be adopted. Throughout the implementation process, interacting with technology vendors, consultants, and industry experts can offer insightful knowledge and support. Working together with suppliers can promote innovation in the upstream supply chain, which will increase responsiveness, efficiency, and visibility.

Bragg, M.S. (2013), illustrates the ongoing assessment and monitoring of performance metrics: By monitoring important performance indicators on a regular basis, firms may assess the effects of new practices and make required modifications. Companies should set up key performance indicators (KPIs) that are in line with their objectives for innovation and monitor their progress on a

regular basis. This makes it possible to quickly identify areas that need improvement or bottlenecks, giving firms the opportunity to optimize their supply chain operations and make the necessary adjustments.

1.5 Benefits of innovation in Supply Chain

Muller M. (2011), claims that adopting innovation can lead to a number of advantages, such as increased competitiveness, lower costs, better customer satisfaction, and more operational efficiency.

Horst.T. (2011), demonstrates how cutting-edge supply chain management techniques help companies achieve sustainable growth, better cooperate with partners and suppliers, and respond to shifting market demands.

Arnold, J.R.T., S.N. Chapman and L.M. Clive (2011), claims that supply chain management is essential to the performance of companies in all sectors of the economy. Coordinating and integrating different activities, such as manufacturing, distribution, and procurement, is necessary to guarantee the smooth flow of goods and services.

Bragg, M.S. (2013), claims that innovation is becoming a crucial source of competitive advantage in the quickly changing corporate environment of today. The significance of innovation in supply chain management is examined in this article, which also identifies important areas where innovation can transform established methods.

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