

Supplier Development Literature Review and Key Future Research Areas

Muddassir Ahmed¹, Linda Hendry^{2,*}

¹Eaton Industries (UK) Ltd, Heathcote Industrial Estate, Warwick, CV34 6TF UK

²Dept of Management Science, Lancaster University Management School, Lancaster LA1 4YX, UK

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to develop a Supplier Development (SD) literature framework and identify the main focus areas in SD research. To this end, a comprehensive review of the existing SD academic literature has been undertaken, which includes 62 research papers. These papers are classified according to their research content and the research methodology employed. A comprehensive list of future research areas is also presented. Thus, this paper will also briefly explore proposed future research. The review of the SD literature presented here identifies the following main areas of focus: Supplier Development Activities, Practices and Success Factors; Direct or Indirect Supplier Development; Supplier Development as a Reactive or Strategic Process; Supplier Development in a Lean Six Sigma & SME context.

Keywords: supplier development, supply chain management, literature review

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* Corresponding author. E-mail address: l.hendry@lancaster.ac.uk

Tel.: 01524 593841

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