INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (IJEMSS)

e-ISSN : 3139-065X

www.ijemss.com

editor@ijemss.com

Vol. 01, Issue 1, May 2026, pp : 761-764

Green Supply Chain Management in Construction

[1]P Abhilash,

[1]Scientist,CSMRS,New Delhi,ORCID: **0000-0002-3767-7846**

ABSTRACT

The construction industry plays a major role in economic development, infrastructure expansion, and urbanization worldwide. However, construction activities consume large quantities of natural resources, energy, water, and raw materials while generating significant environmental pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and construction waste. Traditional supply chain practices in the construction sector often involve inefficient resource utilization, excessive transportation, poor waste management, and unsustainable procurement systems, resulting in environmental degradation and increased operational costs. Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM) has emerged as an important strategy for integrating environmental sustainability into construction supply chain activities, including procurement, transportation, material handling, construction operations, waste management, and recycling systems. Green Supply Chain Management focuses on minimizing environmental impacts while improving economic efficiency, operational performance, and sustainable resource utilization throughout the lifecycle of construction projects. This article presents a comprehensive review of Green Supply Chain Management in construction, including sustainable procurement, green logistics, eco-friendly materials, waste reduction strategies, reverse logistics, smart technologies, and sustainable infrastructure development. The study examines applications of Building Information Modeling (BIM), Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, and digital supply chain systems in sustainable construction management. The findings indicate that Green Supply Chain Management significantly improves environmental performance, resource efficiency, waste reduction, operational sustainability, and organizational competitiveness while reducing carbon emissions and environmental impacts. The article also discusses implementation challenges, government policies, technological advancements, and future trends in sustainable construction supply chain systems.

Keywords: green supply chain management, sustainable construction, green logistics, eco-friendly materials, sustainable procurement, construction waste management, smart supply chain, environmental sustainability

1. Introduction

The construction industry is one of the largest contributors to economic growth, employment generation, and infrastructure development worldwide. Rapid urbanization, industrialization, population growth, and increasing demand for buildings and infrastructure have significantly accelerated construction activities in both developed and developing countries. Modern infrastructure projects such as highways, airports, smart cities, industrial corridors, residential complexes, and commercial buildings require extensive supply chain operations involving procurement, transportation, material storage, equipment management, and waste disposal.

Despite its economic importance, the construction industry is also one of the major consumers of natural resources and energy. Construction operations generate substantial environmental impacts through excessive material consumption, carbon emissions, transportation pollution, waste generation, and depletion of natural resources. Traditional construction supply chain systems often lack environmental considerations and sustainability practices, resulting in inefficient resource utilization and environmental degradation.

Growing concerns regarding climate change, environmental pollution, resource scarcity, and sustainable development have intensified the need for environmentally responsible supply chain systems in construction industries. Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM) has therefore emerged as a strategic approach for integrating sustainability principles into supply chain activities and infrastructure development processes.

Green Supply Chain Management in construction involves environmentally sustainable procurement, eco-friendly transportation systems, green material selection, waste minimization, recycling practices, energy-efficient logistics, and reverse supply chain operations. Sustainable construction supply chains aim to improve environmental performance while maintaining operational efficiency and economic viability.

Technological advancements such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, cloud computing, and smart logistics systems are transforming modern construction supply chain management practices. Governments, industries, researchers, and environmental organizations worldwide are increasingly promoting green supply chain systems for achieving sustainable infrastructure development.

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This article reviews the principles, technologies, applications, benefits, challenges, and future developments of Green Supply Chain Management in construction industries.

2. Concept of Green Supply Chain Management

Green Supply Chain Management refers to integration of environmental sustainability principles into supply chain activities, including procurement, design, material sourcing, manufacturing, transportation, construction operations, waste management, and recycling systems. The objective of GSCM is to reduce environmental impacts while improving operational efficiency, resource utilization, and long-term sustainability.

In construction industries, Green Supply Chain Management involves environmentally responsible selection of materials, suppliers, transportation methods, energy systems, and waste management practices throughout project lifecycles. Green supply chains additionally focus on minimizing carbon emissions, energy consumption, water usage, and construction waste generation.

The concept of GSCM combines environmental management, sustainable logistics, resource conservation, circular economy principles, and intelligent infrastructure management for achieving sustainable construction development. Green supply chain systems additionally improve organizational reputation, competitiveness, and regulatory compliance.

3. Importance of Green Supply Chain Management in Construction

Green Supply Chain Management is increasingly important in construction industries because construction projects consume significant quantities of cement, steel, aggregates, timber, energy, water, and transportation resources. Traditional supply chains often generate excessive waste and pollution throughout material production, transportation, storage, and construction operations.

Implementation of green supply chain practices significantly reduces environmental degradation and operational inefficiencies. Sustainable procurement systems improve utilization of eco-friendly and recyclable materials, while efficient logistics systems reduce fuel consumption and transportation emissions.

Green Supply Chain Management additionally supports sustainable infrastructure development, improves energy efficiency, enhances waste management, and reduces lifecycle costs associated with construction projects. Regulatory requirements and environmental certifications further encourage adoption of sustainable supply chain systems in modern construction industries.

4. Sustainable Procurement Practices

Sustainable procurement is one of the most important components of Green Supply Chain Management in construction. Procurement activities significantly influence environmental performance and sustainability of construction projects because large quantities of materials and equipment are required throughout project lifecycles.

Green procurement involves selection of environmentally friendly materials, sustainable suppliers, recyclable products, and energy-efficient equipment. Preference is given to low-carbon materials such as fly ash concrete, recycled steel, bamboo, geopolymer concrete, and eco-friendly insulation systems.

Supplier evaluation additionally considers environmental certifications, energy efficiency, waste management practices, and sustainability performance. Sustainable procurement systems improve resource conservation and reduce environmental impacts associated with material production and transportation.

5. Green Logistics and Transportation Systems

Transportation and logistics activities contribute significantly to carbon emissions, fuel consumption, and environmental pollution in construction industries. Green logistics focuses on improving transportation efficiency and minimizing environmental impacts associated with movement of construction materials and equipment.

Efficient route planning, fuel-efficient vehicles, multimodal transportation systems, and optimized delivery schedules significantly reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Use of electric vehicles and renewable energy systems further improves environmental sustainability of transportation operations.

Smart logistics systems supported by GPS, IoT, and real-time monitoring technologies improve transportation coordination and reduce operational delays. Consolidated deliveries and local sourcing strategies additionally reduce transportation distances and environmental impacts.

6. Eco-Friendly Construction Materials

Selection of sustainable construction materials is essential for effective implementation of Green Supply Chain Management systems. Conventional construction materials such as cement and steel often require high energy consumption and generate significant carbon emissions during manufacturing processes.

Green construction materials include recycled aggregates, fly ash bricks, bamboo, recycled steel, geopolymer

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concrete, low-carbon cement, natural fibers, and recycled plastics. Sustainable materials improve resource efficiency and reduce environmental impacts associated with extraction and production of raw materials.

Use of locally available materials additionally minimizes transportation costs and carbon emissions. Environmentally friendly material selection significantly improves sustainability performance and lifecycle efficiency of construction projects.

7. Construction Waste Management and Reverse Logistics

Construction and demolition waste generation is one of the major environmental challenges associated with infrastructure development. Improper disposal of construction waste contributes to land pollution, resource wastage, and environmental degradation.

Green Supply Chain Management emphasizes reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery of construction materials throughout project lifecycles. Construction waste management systems include segregation, recycling, reuse, and environmentally responsible disposal of waste materials.

Reverse logistics systems facilitate collection and recycling of construction waste, reusable materials, and equipment components. Recycling of concrete, steel, timber, glass, and plastics significantly reduces landfill disposal and raw material consumption. Circular economy principles further strengthen sustainable waste management practices in construction industries.

8. Smart Technologies in Green Supply Chain Management

Technological advancements are significantly transforming Green Supply Chain Management practices in construction industries. Building Information Modeling (BIM) improves planning, material estimation, logistics coordination, and lifecycle management of construction projects. BIM significantly reduces material wastage and improves project efficiency.

Internet of Things (IoT) technologies enable real-time monitoring of transportation systems, material inventories, equipment utilization, energy consumption, and environmental conditions. Smart sensors and GPS systems improve supply chain visibility and operational coordination.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms support predictive analytics, demand forecasting, route optimization, inventory management, and supplier evaluation. Blockchain technology improves transparency, traceability, and security of supply chain transactions. Cloud computing and digital platforms further enhance communication and integration among supply chain stakeholders.

9. Environmental and Economic Benefits

Green Supply Chain Management provides significant environmental, economic, and operational benefits for construction industries. Sustainable procurement and efficient logistics systems reduce carbon emissions, fuel consumption, waste generation, and resource depletion.

Recycling and reuse of construction materials significantly reduce landfill disposal and operational costs. Improved supply chain coordination and smart logistics systems enhance productivity, reduce delays, and improve resource utilization efficiency.

Green supply chain practices additionally improve corporate image, regulatory compliance, and competitive advantage within construction markets. Sustainable infrastructure projects often achieve better environmental certifications and long-term economic performance.

10. Challenges in Implementing Green Supply Chain Management

Despite significant advantages, implementation of Green Supply Chain Management in construction industries faces several technical, financial, and organizational challenges. High initial costs associated with green technologies, sustainable materials, and smart logistics systems may discourage adoption in some projects.

Lack of awareness, technical expertise, and training among stakeholders additionally affects implementation of sustainable supply chain practices. Limited availability of eco-friendly materials and sustainable suppliers may create operational difficulties in certain regions.

Coordination among suppliers, contractors, transportation providers, and project managers is often complex in large construction projects. Resistance to change and inadequate policy enforcement further affect adoption of green supply chain systems.

11. Future Trends and Innovations

Future Green Supply Chain Management systems are expected to increasingly integrate artificial intelligence, robotics, blockchain technology, digital twins, and autonomous transportation systems for improving sustainability and operational efficiency. Smart warehouses and automated logistics systems will significantly improve inventory management and transportation coordination.

Renewable energy integration, electric construction equipment, carbon-neutral materials, and sustainable

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manufacturing technologies will further reduce environmental impacts of construction supply chains. Circular economy principles emphasizing reuse, recycling, and resource recovery will become increasingly important in future infrastructure development.

Advanced data analytics and intelligent decision-support systems will improve supply chain optimization and sustainability performance. Future smart cities are expected to extensively integrate sustainable and intelligent supply chain systems for achieving environmentally responsible urban development.

12. Conclusion

Green Supply Chain Management has become one of the most important strategies for achieving sustainable construction and environmentally responsible infrastructure development. Traditional construction supply chains often create significant environmental impacts through excessive material consumption, transportation emissions, waste generation, and inefficient resource utilization.

Sustainable procurement systems, green logistics, eco-friendly materials, waste management practices, reverse logistics, and smart technologies significantly improve environmental performance and operational efficiency of construction supply chains. Applications of BIM, IoT, artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, and digital supply chain systems further enhance intelligence, transparency, and sustainability of modern construction management systems.

Green Supply Chain Management reduces carbon emissions, construction waste, energy consumption, and operational costs while improving competitiveness and regulatory compliance within construction industries. Although challenges related to implementation costs, technical expertise, coordination, and infrastructure limitations continue to exist, technological advancements and increasing environmental awareness are accelerating adoption of sustainable supply chain systems worldwide.

Future innovations in intelligent logistics systems, renewable energy integration, circular economy practices, autonomous transportation technologies, and smart infrastructure management are expected to further strengthen Green Supply Chain Management and support resilient, efficient, and environmentally sustainable construction industries.

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