

Presentation of a Structural Model for Assessing Supply Chain Capabilities in the Iranian Food Industry

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paper utilizes a sample of 217 respondents from a population of 500. Clarify the selection criteria for these respondents to ensure that they are representative of the broader population in the food industry. Consider stratified sampling to improve representation across different roles and departments.

It is mentioned that the questionnaire is researcher-made. Provide details on the validation process of the questionnaire, including any pilot testing and the steps taken to establish content validity and reliability (e.g., Cronbach's alpha values for each scale).

While structural equation modeling (SEM) is used, the justification for choosing this method over other potential statistical techniques is not provided. Elaborate on why SEM is the most appropriate tool for this study's specific aims and data structure.

The discussion of the fit indices is somewhat superficial. Expand on how each fit index contributes to the overall assessment of the model's quality and what these indices reveal about the potential limitations of the current model structure.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The current literature review primarily focuses on general aspects of supply chain management. Deepen the review by discussing specific studies that have used structural models to assess supply chain capabilities, particularly in similar industrial contexts.

The theoretical foundation for the proposed structural model is not fully articulated. Clarify the theoretical framework or models that underpin the study, detailing how they inform the model's construction and hypotheses.

Some constructs within the model (e.g., competitive advantage, financial performance) lack clear operational definitions in the context of the study. Provide explicit definitions and explain how these were measured or quantified in the study.

The interpretation of the results is primarily descriptive. Enhance this section by discussing the implications of the findings in light of existing theories and prior empirical studies. Address any unexpected results and hypothesize potential reasons for these findings.

Address methodological limitations more critically. Discuss the potential biases inherent in using self-reported data and the implications of the study's cross-sectional design, which limits causal inferences.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.