

## Analysis and Ranking of Critical Success Factors in the Implementation of Supply Chain Information Systems by Multi-Criteria Technique (Dematel) (Case Study: Mirab Profile Company: Hoffman)

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**Abstract:** The success of an enterprise depends largely on its ability to coordinate complex network of communication and information among supply chain. Because today one of the key features of trade that other companies do not compete with each other, but they are ongoing competitiveness in supply chains. The progress of information technology has led to an important source of information for organizations to increase competitiveness. Thus, Supply chain Information Systems (SCSI) are the core of success. On the other hand, the implementation of the supply chain information systems has a lot of costs and that most of these systems are leading to failure. The present study is an attempt to identify and rank the critical success factors of supply chain information systems, that can help managers with continuous care in the process of implementation, the success of implementing this system and use the benefits in the entire supply chain. Thus research due to the nature and methods is descriptive. Population is managers of supply chain and information systems in Tabriz Mirab profile company (Hoffman). The sample is category of experts. Data collection instrument was a questionnaire consisting of 156 questions is paired comparisons. DEMATEL technique is used for analyze and ranking of data. The results showed that factors: determining the construction programs and vision, project management, take top management responsibility and change management and user training most effective and of high importance.

**Key words:** Supply chain, information systems, enterprise resource management, critical success factors, DEMATEL

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### INTRODUCTION

In fact, information systems is a set of interrelated elements that makes data and information gathering, manipulating and distributing and provide feedback to achieve a goal. Information systems can be divided into different categories. The computer-based information system is composed of five elements include: people procedures-data-software-hardware.

**Supply chain information system:** There's information systems between two or more companies that facilitate Flow of information and storing it (usually design, engineering, sales, purchase order) (Humphreys *et al.*, 2001).

Such a system also known as inter-organizational information systems that basically called as automation systems shared by two or more organizations (Barrett and

Konsynski, 1982). Implementation of a supply chain information systems is complex because of three characteristics.

The range of supply chain refers to the number of participating players. An actor is an organization with decision-making body by a number of individuals. (Eckartz *et al.*, 2010). When actors are more involved complexity increases in supply chain. That's why multinational companies like General Motors and General Electric, reduce the number of suppliers and make in Lower level to coordinate for supply chain (Choi and Krause, 2006). In summary, increasing supply chain actors, increase The level of coordination required for improving operational efficiency chain.

Second, supply chain system is communication way between partners. Supply chains can use written contract that is an official way connect a supply chain coordinated with each other. Contracts are legal instruments that explicitly describe conditions within the enterprise chain

Thirdly, there may be conflict and differences among actors. Including technical capabilities, operational practices, attitudes, culture and management methods and soon. When actors of the supply chain has similar technical capabilities are very easy to work together. For example, when an outdated operating system such as Windows 95 or DOS is still being used by some supply chain partners implementation of a new supply chain information system will be complicated. When supply chain partners have inconsistent operation procedures this complexity increases. During the past years organizations are suffered a lot of pressure to adapt to changing business environments.

Organizations to survive in today's highly variable markets must be able to quickly adapt to the changing conditions of their business. Large organizations around the world to overcome this problem are looking for agility, high flexibility and tried to deal with internal and external changes in their business by organizational systems.

There are a variety of organizational systems such as: Supply Chain Management (SCM), Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) (Lu and Lee, 2004).

Enterprise resource planning systems can be defined as software that is integrated with components or modules in functional areas of organizations such as Planning, production, sales, marketing, distribution, accounting, human resources management, project management, inventory management and maintenance services, transportation management and e-commerce.

Enterprise resource planning system is a comprehensive system that tries to integrate all functions and departments within an organization using a single computer system that can satisfy the specific needs and special sections.

This is performed by using a computer software by a single database, allows users to share information and communicate with each other in different sectors. This software consists of several software modules that each part is responsible for duties in the company (Denolf *et al.*, 2015).

In fact, enterprise resource planning is the result of 40 years of experience, trial and error and due to continuous improvement in existing techniques in organizational management and rapid growth of information technology, enterprise resource planning also grown and has followed its evolution. Therefore, very strong basic concepts (which over the years has formed), infrastructure the enterprise resource planning systems (Fig. 1). It is note worthy that in 1998, >20,000 organizations around the world have been invested >\$17 billion in enterprise resource planning. In later years this figure has grown by 30-50% in 2003 to around 100 billion dollars.

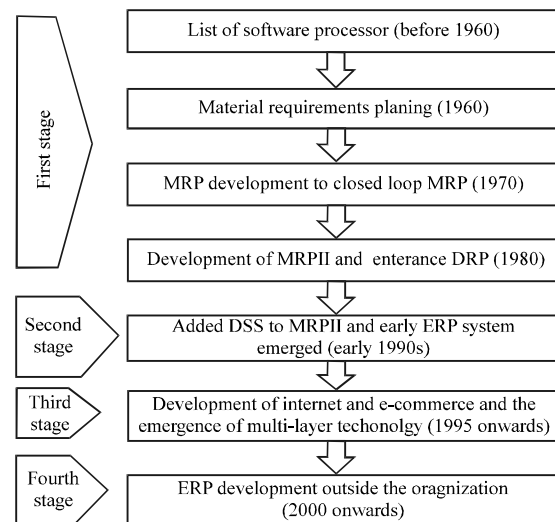


Fig. 1: Evolution of Enterprise Resource Planning system (ERP) (Ahmadvand *et al.*, 2011)

**Literature review:** Pourkianry Taher investigated a research to identify associated factors effect on successful implementation of planning system. In this study, factors affecting the success of the deployment of ERP has been studied. First, with regard to theoretical principles, 23 successful effective factors were identified in implementation of enterprise resource planning. Based on critical success factors, a questionnaire with 84 questions was prepared and distributed among the population. By using factor analysis, effective factors in successful implementation of the organization plan include: strategic factor; operating organization; an appropriate choice and control and monitoring.

Jabalameli and Rasolinejad, in study stated: "the use of the analytic network process in the ranking of bank branches: Case Study Saderat Bank "ranking economic units matched one of the most important issues for decision making and improve the performance of these units. One of the most important economic units is the banking sector of each country. Grading is done for the banks operating in our country, but the rankings branches in the traditional way (by check only branch sources) or a purely mathematical method of data envelopment analysis takes place.

Hatami *et al.* (2011), in a study entitled "Roadmap implementation of ERP in healthcare centers", express limitations which multiple activities of the service sector, a good potential for the use of enterprise resource planning systems on the idea that health is considered the best known. The treatment area because of its particular Complexities and sensitivities requires integration of information for more effective service delivery to patients.

Kale *et al.* 2010, in one study of enterprise resource planning function in Indian agencies had concluded that, in organizations that have implemented enterprise resource planning system, in comparison to the widespread impact and significant benefits are expected a lot of their problems resolved with implement system. Due to the complexity of the operation, Meetall these expectations are difficult to achieve all advantages in the short term.

Yoon (2009), evaluate the impact of organizational culture on the success of the deployment of the enterprise resource planning system. He considered the altruism, conscientiousness, organizational literature, good general condition, ethical behavior and characteristics of organizational culture and information quality and efficiency in performance are the characteristics of success the enterprise resource planning system deployment. Yoon showed that the successful deployment of the enterprise resource planning system, significantly affected the organizational culture.

Other factors in research support and participation of top management, project management, user training, change management, team collaboration, clear objectives, IT systems as well as key success factors identified in the implementation of enterprise resource planning system (Lau and Lee, 2000).

Investigation in German companies compared to other factors revealed that technological factors are more important than other factors and affecting the success of an enterprise resource planning system project. Also data migration agents and also system testing, even senior management or project management support Are the most important factors for enterprise resource planning system projects (Leyh and Thomschke, 2015).

In another study, researcher have been identified factors: effective communication, the champion of the project, the project team, senior management responsibility, determination and vision programs, assessment systems (Denolf *et al.*, 2015).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Research analytical framework:** With literature review showed that various factors in preventing the failure of supply chain information systems projects are effective. In a general framework in this study were as follows (Fig. 2).

**Research questions:** The research questions are as follows.

- What factors affect the successful implementation of information systems supply chain

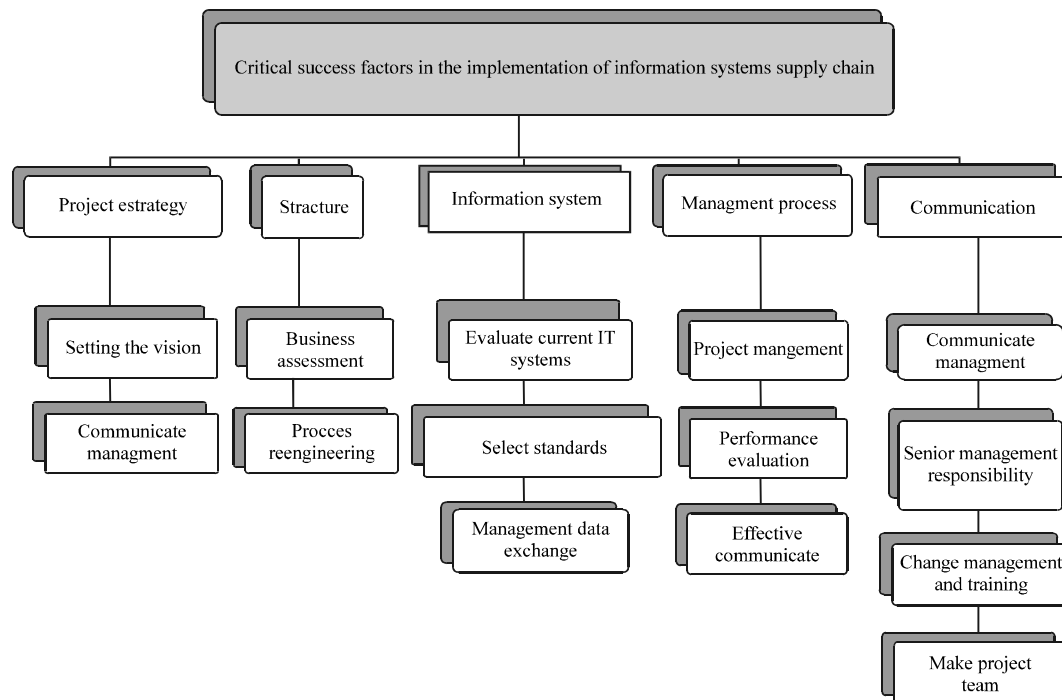


Fig. 2: Percentage the failure of supply chain information system

- Causal relationship between critical success factors of supply chain information systems look like
- How is priority or rank of these factors in Mirab company profiles (Hoffman)
- Research method

**Statistical society:** The statistical community of supply chain and information systems is Mirab Company profiles (Hoffman). The sample in this research because of the use of operations research techniques and methods D matel has been formed a category of experts.

According to the Saati ten experts for studies based on paired comparison is enough. Also Rizza and Ezilis point out that a number of experts should not be too much as the interviewe totally 5-15 people are propose. As a result, due to the specialized the subject and limitations identified experts, A few experts have chosen that a total of 20 experts are relevant And were selected by judgment and available sampling in this study. In this type of sampling, individuals are selected for the sample that are in the best position to provide the required information.

**Data collection tool:** In this study, due to the nature of the subject data collected by field surveys and questionnaires were used. During the study, a questionnaire of 156 items was used. In this questionnaire to collect information needed to D-MATEL Method, matrix was designed based on evaluating the amount of influence of each factor row, on real factors in the column by experts.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Inferential statistics

**Prioritize critical success factors using multiple criteria techniques D-MATEL:** From literature review achieved to 13 critical success factor as following table. For summarize, these factors have been identified by words English C1-C13. At this stage these factors is analyzed using D-MATEL techniques (Table 1).

**Solving the model by D-MATEL Method A:** Direct correlation matrix calculation (average) M paired comparisons after initially collecting the questionnaires and the presence or absence of a relationship between two factors with regard to the majority of experts that have had more match, direct communication matrix M was formed. It was in this way that, for example, if more than half of the experts had diagnosed zero the severity of the effect of A on B to, ineffectiveness of A on B verified and the corresponding element in the matrix M was considered

**Table 1: Abbreviations dedicated to the critical success factors**

Abbreviations	Description vital factor
C1	Effective communication
C2	Choose projects champion
C3	Make project team
C4	Senior management responsibility
C5	Set making and vision program
C6	IT systems and business evaluate
C7	Standards and seller company selection and software package
C8	Reengineering process
C9	Project management
C10	Configuration, testing and troubleshooting
C11	Data exchange management
C12	Change management and user training
C13	Monitoring and evaluating the performance

zero. Otherwise, according to the consensus of experts or simple average comments, appropriate points set and was placed in the corresponding element.

**Normalization of the matrix M:** Total rows calculate the matrix elements M and reverse most of it in the elements of matrix M is multiplied. In so doing the relative intensities of the direct relations can be determined.

$$a = \frac{1}{\max \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}} \quad N = a.M$$

$$\max \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} = 37$$

$$a = \frac{1}{37} = 0.027$$

By multiplying coefficient in the matrix M, normalized matrix N obtained that was used in the next step.

**Calculation of total relations matrix:** In this step matrix relative intensity from direct and indirect relationships (S) according to the following formula was established:

$$S = N(1 - N)^{-1}$$

**Calculation of the possible indirect relationship (matrix T):** The severity of possible indirect relationships (From elements on each other) through the following formula was calculated:

$$T = N^2(1 - N)^{-1}$$

By analyzing the above and using data matrix with MATLAB and Excel and SPSS Software, The following results for the matrix T and parameters R and J and R + J

**Table 2: Results of paired comparison**

Column\	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13
C1	0.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	0.6	1.6	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.6
C2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	-0.2	2.2	1.2	1.6	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.8
C3	1.6	1.4	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.0	2.2	0.4	2.2	1.0	1.2	0.4
C4	1.6	2.0	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.8	1.4	2.6	1.6	2.6	1.8	1.4	1.4
C5	1.0	1.4	0.2	0.8	0.0	2.0	2.4	2.8	1.4	2.8	3.2	1.8	2.2
C6	0.2	-0.8	-0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.4	-0.6	-0.8	0.8	-0.4	1.2
C7	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.8	2.0	1.0	3.4	2.8	1.0
C8	0.6	0.0	-1.4	-0.8	-1.4	-1.4	0.6	0.0	0.6	1.4	1.8	1.2	-0.4
C9	0.2	10.4	3.2	2.6	1.4	1.0	2.4	2.4	0.0	3.0	2.6	1.6	1.8
C10	1.4	0.4	0.8	-1.0	-1.0	-0.8	0.6	0.0	-0.8	0.0	-0.6	0.4	-0.4
C11	0.2	1.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.6	-0.2	1.2	0.8	0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.8	1.2
C12	2.6	2.2	1.6	1.4	1.0	2.2	2.6	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.4	0.0	2.2
C13	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.8	0.2	0.0	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.0	2.8	0.2	0.0

**Table 3: T-matrix**

T-matrix	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13
C1	0.1747	0.1656	0.1641	0.0501	0.1057	0.1999	0.2252	0.2122	0.1789	0.1351	0.2415	0.2599	0.2052
C2	0.2923	0.1256	0.2223	0.1422	0.1862	0.2800	0.3053	0.2922	0.2432	0.2054	0.2796	0.3281	0.2855
C3	0.1903	0.0831	0.0512	0.0267	0.0462	0.1283	0.1498	0.1594	0.0706	0.0986	0.1653	0.1981	0.1757
C4	0.3456	0.2075	0.2071	0.0723	0.2171	0.2847	0.2659	0.2729	0.2599	0.2322	0.3079	0.3364	0.2888
C5	0.2492	0.1195	0.1649	0.1214	0.0783	0.1993	0.2250	0.1831	0.1560	0.1628	0.1942	0.2584	0.2807
C6	0.2911	0.1580	0.1274	0.8380	0.1681	0.1893	0.2836	0.2972	0.1563	0.2130	0.3693	0.3294	0.2860
C7	0.2262	0.1021	0.0694	0.0391	0.6820	0.2875	0.1283	0.2173	0.1159	0.1458	0.2488	0.2374	0.2069
C8	0.2092	0.0716	0.0631	0.0342	0.0615	0.1915	0.1419	0.1255	0.1293	0.1356	0.2872	0.2185	0.1909
C9	0.3347	0.2228	0.2245	0.1184	0.2066	0.2536	0.2809	0.2879	0.1554	0.2015	0.2750	0.3250	0.2814
C10	0.1131	0.0684	0.0397	0.0237	0.4010	0.1260	0.1228	0.1076	0.0515	0.0528	0.1618	0.1687	0.0777
C11	0.2708	0.1149	0.1134	0.0971	0.1519	0.1986	0.1732	0.2298	0.1341	0.1110	0.1620	0.2784	0.2235
C12	0.2207	0.1015	0.0947	0.0382	0.0670	0.2606	0.1753	0.2108	0.1362	0.1422	0.2183	0.1560	0.1788
C13	0.2488	0.1148	0.0796	0.0442	0.7800	0.2518	0.2479	0.2624	0.1525	0.1867	0.2498	0.2624	0.1524

**Table 4: R&J parameters**

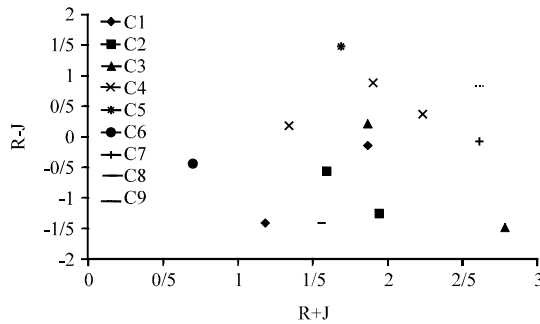
Parameters	Values
<b>J</b>	
C11	1.564967
C8	1.414355
C7	1.304303
C10	1.283458
C2	1.079723
C1	0.995488
C12	0.935664
C13	0.875372
C3	0.792110
C9	0.758280
C6	0.559325
C4	0.482048
C5	0.083350
<b>R</b>	
C12	1.821262
C9	1.811705
C5	1.598936
C4	1.411356
C13	1.328134
C7	1.276329
C3	1.067142
C1	0.834896
C2	0.493219
C11	0.355283
C6	0.142977
C8	0.096627
C10	-0.10942

**Table 5: R+J and R-J parameters**

Parameters	Values
<b>R-J</b>	
C5	1.515587
C9	1.053425
C4	0.929309
C12	0.885598
C13	0.452763
C3	0.275032
C7	-0.02797
C1	-0.16059
C6	-0.51635
C2	-0.58650
C11	-1.20968
C8	-1.31773
C10	-1.39288
<b>R+J</b>	
C12	2.756925
C7	2.580632
C9	2.569985
C13	2.203506
C11	1.920250
C4	1.893404
C3	1.859252
C1	1.830383
C5	1.582286
C2	1.572942
C8	1.510982
C10	1.174034
C6	0.702302

and R-J for 13 indicators (factors) was achieved for success critical as follows (Table 2-5). Finally output MATLAB Software were extracted as follows.

By drawing pairs of R + J and R-J in the coordinate system with Excel Software, the impact and reception of the parameters and the importance (weight) of the system was determined as follows (Fig. 3). Rate of influence and



effectiveness of the parameters and their importance on system rate of influence and effectiveness of the parameters and their importance on system:

- Answers to the survey questions
- According to a survey conducted in various articles of external and internal sources and also application exists research below question was answered

**First question:** What factors affect the successful implementation of information systems supply chain. According to analyze conducted in this study, critical success factors in the implementation of information systems supply chain are as follows:

- Make effective communicate
- Choose projects champion
- Make project team
- Senior management responsibility
- Set making and vision program
- IT systems and business Evaluate
- Standards and seller company selection and software package
- Reengineering process
- Project management
- Configuration, testing and troubleshooting
- Data exchange management
- Change management and user training
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance

**Second question:** How is the causal relationships between critical success factors of supply chain information systems? According to the results matrix of research and analysis with MATLAB and Excel (matrix T) determined that all of these factors effect on each other and also are impressionable. In D-MATL techniques the amount of Impact and influence determined by R+Parameter. It means, however this parameter is more and its interaction with other elements of systems become more with more weight and importance. Among them the highest amounts

Table 6: Ranking R+J parameters

Description vital factor	R+J
Change management and user training	2.756925
Standards and seller company selection and software package	2.580632
Project management	2.569985
Monitoring and evaluating the performance	2.203506
Data exchange management	1.920250
Senior management responsibility	1.893404
Make project team	1.859252
Effective communication	1.830383
Set making and vision plan	1.682286
Choose projects champion	1.572942
Reengineering process	1.510982
Configuration, testing and troubleshooting	1.174034
IT systems and business assessment	0.702302

Table 7: Ranking R-J parameters

Description vital factor	R-J
Set making and vision plan	1.5155870
Project management	1.0534250
Senior management responsibility	0.9293090
Change management and user training	0.8855980
Monitoring and evaluating the performance	0.4527630
Make project team	0.2750320
Configuration, testing and troubleshooting	-0.027970
Effective communication	-0.160590
IT systems and business assessment	-0.416350
Choose projects champion	-0.586500
Data exchange management	-1.209680
Reengineering process	-1.317730
Configuration, testing and troubleshooting	-1.392880

is related to the C12 (change management and user training) and then C7 (standard and seller company selection and software package) and C9 (Project Management). The influence of each factor on other elements of the system with RJ parameter is showed that the greatest amount factors is related to C5 (set making and vision plan) and C9 (project management) and then C4 (responsibility of senior management) and are as the influencing factors. Also factors C10 (configuration, testing and debugging) and C8 (reengineering process) and C11 (data exchange management) that have the least amount of R-J (negative) are definitive factors or influenced.

**Third question:** How is the priority or ranking these factors in MIRAB company profiles (Hoffman) based on the results of this research, ranking the critical success factors in the implementation of information systems supply chain at Hoffman Company is on Table 6 and 7. Resulting from D-MATL and MATLAB and Excel Software output.

## CONCLUSION

Implement an information system supply chain requires effective communication inside and between organizations in the supply chain partner. The impact of

communications before and during its implementation is very important. For example, to reduce resistance and frustration, the future users of this technology should be informed why some decisions have been taken or regular communication and interaction should be done between the organizations to set objectives.

Generally, when implementing an information system supply chain, opening and frequent communication is vital. In the research literature, the importance of effective communication is widely recognized by most researchers. When implementing an information system supply chain, requires an implementation team to facilitate project success which, according to Lu *et al.* (2006) this team is composed of four sub-teams: technical team, partner's team involved, the business (commercial) and the management team. The management team includes senior executives all supply chain partners.

Several studies have theorized that senior management commitment and involvement of all partners involved in the supply chain is a key factor. A senior team, to increase the interaction between the involved agencies must be representative of the management of all participating organizations. The primary responsibility of the senior management team is to provide support such as time, money and resources.

Because by lack of support, implementation will undoubtedly lead to failure. In addition to financial support, senior managers are responsible for employee's psychological support. To reduce differences in implementation, all supply chain partners need a common vision. This is because the compatibility and improve the exchange of information. In particular, supply chain partners need to adjust perspective during implementing supply chain information system and creating a common business plan. To set outlook, open communication and regular meetings between the senior managers of involved partners is vital.

Of course, different organizational cultures may be hampered in this area and prevent their development goals. May be stronger organizations in the supply chain during these sessions impose their views on others because other organizations often depend to them. If supply chain partners with different goals don't make a true communicate with each other, implementation problems will become further and thus may become fail to implement. Business and IT systems currently used in the supply chain may need to be re-evaluated. Because implementation of an information system supply chain need compatibility between supplies chain partners. For compatibility with policies, procedures, job stability, culture, strategy, objectives control, the organizational hierarchy, among different organizations, evaluating business systems and IT in the supply chain is essential.

Chain partners involved IT incompatibility is a very important obstacle to become successful in implementation of supply chain information systems. Before selecting a seller company, supply chain partners must agree on technical standards because some partners may be due to incompatibility of packages with their internal systems, don't be agree with them. Then they must agree on the vendor and information system software package.

Before re-engineer production processes and information existing processes need to further investigate. And require better design activities with value-added throughout the organization and chain. Then to make better use of new supply chain and operation of additional value creation, opportunities, reshaping production processes and information, duties and responsibilities of involved personnel, the organizational hierarchy and guidelines, processes must be redesigned. For successful implementation of supply chain information systems, long-term commitment of involved partners is very important.

Only when all partners are actively engaged, are highly motivated and in a timely manner implementation problems will solved by the partners and everyone can come to mutual resources. This motivation often is shown with the use of facilities, expertise and time. The effective implementation of information systems supply chain requires data management strategy. Security and access to information is supply chain partners concerns. For example, when a supplier provides an important piece for two manufacturer, both producers should not share information with suppliers unless it is guaranteed that the information is not leaked to another manufacturer.

In addition, Prem Kumar stated that when supply chain partners are pessimistic about the leakage of information, security concerns become bigger. These concerns can be controlled by firewalls or security or adequate training. In addition, the data must be accurate and timely. If one or more supply chain partners for different operating systems or specific information systems cannot share their information carefully, data can be collected carefully. In this respect Kouh and Chlyder suggested that information standards (such as a data exchange format) should be created during implementing supply chain information systems.

In many cases, during implementation of supply chain information system, there is a reluctance to use information system and share information. Several studies show that many managers are reluctant to share information which is often are valued.

In addition, employees prefer current situation and avoid to change. Resistance to change is a special

challenge and employees do not want to change their way by other supply chain organization. To avoid this problem, all users in supply chain partners need to be involved in the design and selection of information system and gain enough confidence. Self-confidence can be created through users training. Performance measurement is one of the important points in the implementation of information systems.

Because the measuring inconsistent performance among the involved partners in the chain provides significant barriers to supply chain management. Performance measurement can support and protect the supply chain process changes. In the supply chain should be on performance indicators, to be agreed between the involved partners and the agreement is considered as a challenge because usually different ways of measuring performance among the partners has been created and can change the direction of its implementation.

### **SUGGESTION**

According to the results of research and software analysis, the following suggestions are presented in order of priority:

- Familiarize involved managers with benefits of implementation of information systems through conferences or meetings
- Justification seminars and classes before run at a senior level managers to determine project costs
- Peer review in operational costs before proceeding with the implementation of supplychain information and declare it all supply chain partners for more cooperation
- Familiarize users in all levels with benefits and risks of information system implementation and project failure
- Raising corporate culture by training administrators and users towards cooperation with project objectives and reduce their resistance against the alterations taking place (change management)

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