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PhD Stage 2

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The strategic importance of supply chain management in SMEs: a case study of the garment industries in Sri Lanka



This research will be conducted with a view to identifying the strategic importance of supply chain management (SCM) practices in enhancing the competitive advantage of small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Sri Lankan garment industry.

The broad aim of the research is to understand how the Sri Lankan garment industry SMEs implement SCM strategies in terms of recognising the common strategies that are being implemented. Further, the specific objectives of: identifying the constraints of the Sri Lankan garment industry SMEs on the implementation of improved SCM strategies, common practices of SCM among the garment industry SMEs in Sri Lanka and the success factors for an effective SCM strategy in a manufacturing organisation will be addressed in particular.

A mixed-method approach will be used to carry out the research. The first phase of data collection will be based on available documentary evidences related to SCM practices of selected garment industry SMEs and in-depth interviews will be carried out with SCM-related decision makers. The second phase of data collection will be based on a structured questionnaire. A representative survey will be carried out among the selected garment industry SMEs.