

## Lean Thinking and E-Commerce as New Opportunities to Improve Partnership in Supply Chain of Construction Industries

**Authors :** Kaustav Kundu, Alberto Portioli Staudacher

**Abstract :** Construction industry plays a vital role in the economy of the world. But due to high uncertainty and variability in the industry, its performance is not as efficient in terms of quality, lead times, productivity and costs as of other industries. Moreover, there are continuous conflicts among the different actors in the construction supply chains in terms of profit sharing. Previous studies suggested partnership as an important approach to promote cooperation among the different actors in the construction supply chains and thereby it improves the overall performance. Construction practitioners tried to focus on partnership which can enhance the performance of construction supply chains but they are not fully aware of different approaches and techniques for improving partnership. In this research, a systematic review on partnership in relation to construction supply chains is carried out to understand different elements influencing the partnership. The research development of this domain is analyzed by reviewing selected articles published from 1996 to 2015. Based on the papers, three major elements influencing partnership in construction supply chains are identified: "Lean approach", "Relationship building" and "E-commerce applications". This study analyses the contributions in the areas within each element and provides suggestions for future developments of partnership in construction supply chains.

**Keywords :** partnership, construction, lean, SCM, supply chain management

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