Research Project Report for MBA Operations Management

ABC University

School of Business Administration
October 2024

Research Project:

The Role of Lean Manufacturing in Improving Operational Efficiency in the Automotive Industry

Investigator:

Emily R. Parker, MBA Candidate

Department of Operations Management

ABC University

Prepared by:

Emily R. Parker

Statement of Purpose

This research project aims to explore the impact of Lean Manufacturing principles on improving operational efficiency in the automotive industry. The study seeks to evaluate how the implementation of lean tools and techniques can reduce waste, enhance productivity, and improve overall supply chain efficiency.

Research Questions

This study examines the following key research questions:

- 1. How does the implementation of Lean Manufacturing principles affect operational efficiency in the automotive sector?
- 2. What are the main challenges faced by automotive companies in adopting Lean Manufacturing?
- 3. How does the reduction of waste through Lean practices contribute to cost savings and increased productivity in automotive manufacturing?

Study Methodology

This research adopted a case study approach to evaluate the effects of Lean Manufacturing in three major automotive manufacturing companies. Quantitative data was gathered through key performance indicators (KPIs) related to operational efficiency, such as production cycle times, inventory levels, and defect rates.

Additionally, interviews with operations managers and lean specialists were conducted to gain insights into the practical challenges and benefits of implementing Lean Manufacturing. This study also conducted a detailed analysis of specific lean tools, including Kaizen, 5S, and Just-in-Time (JIT), to assess their individual contributions to operational performance improvements.

The data collected were analyzed to identify common trends and best practices that can be applied across the industry to improve supply chain performance and operational efficiency.