Systematic review of lean manufacturing practices in pharmaceutical industry

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to conduct the systematic review of lean manufacturing practices in Pharmaceutical Industry. It is the established fact that lean manufacturing practices are widely acceptable and popular in Pharmaceutical Industry unlike the other industries except automobiles. It is the facts also that despite this popularity, many companies are still unaware about the appropriate selection of relevant lean practices for their industry. This paper encompasses the comprehensive systematic review of lean manufacturing practices in Pharmaceutical Industry and identifies and discusses their applications.

The following research is based on twenty nine (29) papers which were published in well repute journals, books, databases and conference proceedings. In initial search seventy five (75) papers were collected added in data pool. Later on, scrutiny was done according to the objectives of the research and twenty nine (29) papers were found most relevant to the research.

The lean practices are extracted after thorough study of the final pool of twenty nine (29) papers. This paper summarizes all mentioned lean practices into Forty (40). Furthermore, the deep study is conducted and most successful Ten (10) lean practices are identified for further discussion. The identified Ten (10) lean practices are discussed in detail and their applications are further elaborated by relevant case studies.

It is very important for industry practitioners to be aware of the applications of relevant lean manufacturing practices. In addition to this, industry practitioners must be aware also about the limitations and lean road map before starting the lean implementation process. Hence, this paper could provide valuable insights to Pharmaceutical Industry practitioners.

The findings from this case study are limited to focus areas of Pharmaceutical Industry and cannot be generalized for others in Pharmaceutical and/or other industry/services sectors.
This paper is based on a comprehensive systematic literature review which gives an opportunity to Lean Manufacturing researchers and Pharmaceutical Industry practitioners to understand most relevant Ten (10) Lean manufacturing practices in depth. In addition, highlighting the other thirty (30) relevant Lean Manufacturing practices and their applications in current literature and developing an agenda for future research, will save time and effort for readers looking to research in the area of Lean Manufacturing Practices in Pharmaceutical Industry.

**Keywords**
Lean manufacturing, review, industry, pharmaceutical, lean practices

**Acknowledgements**

We are very thankful to our colleagues and well wishers at the department of Industrial engineering & management and Mehran UET, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan to motivate and guide us. We also acknowledge our textile industry friends to guide us in the local & global scenario of lean manufacturing in textile industry. We are also very thankful to the administrative and technical support from the administration & management of Mehran UET, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan for their cooperation and support. We are especially thankful to Mehran UET Library & Online Information Centre to provide the free access to the valuable databases and relevant books, magazines, journals etc.

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