

**E-LOGISTICS ;
AN INFORMATION PERSPECTIVE**

by

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ABSTRACT

Logistics is unique and despite its enormous contribution to our economic activities it is the least understood industry. Logistics is a military term and concepts but currently logistics have been implemented and used in the commercial activities to move products and services where and when they are required. Logistics plays an important role especially in the manufacturing and retailing industry where competition is stiff.

Hence, it is not surprising to note that many companies are scrutinizing on their logistics operation not only as a means to reduce production costs but to gain competitive advantage over their competitors and to improve their customer service levels. These objectives can only be achieved through excellent logistics information system because information is very important ingredient in logistics activities. A good information system that collect, maintain and distribute all forms of logistics information can be considered as the backbones of logistics operations.

The advancement in the information and communication technology has resulted in the introduction of electronics in almost every aspect of the logistics operations. This paper attempts to highlight the importance and role of information in logistics including the impact of electronic applications in the present day logistics industry.

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CHAPTER ONE

An Introduction to the Topics

Keywords

Logistics; Logistics chain; Supply chain management; Information flow; Knowledge spectrum; Management control; Decision analysis; Strategic planning; E-commerce; Globalisation; E-logistics; Electronic data interchange; Artificial intelligence; Communication.

1.1 Introduction and Objective of Study

The development of modern society is very complex, the peace and stability of the world depending on the ease of social interaction and trade between two entities or nation states. Though the electronic communication system has developed to the stage where links between individuals and companies can be made in seconds world wide, cohesion still depends to a large extent on the provision of an acceptable logistics systems.

The system must allow peoples to travel and meet as well as facilitating trade by enabling all kind of goods to be exchanged and transported. Peoples are willing to travel great distance in order to fulfil their needs for business and leisure. Goods traverse the globe to satisfy the needs of the world population for necessities and luxuries. The importance of logistics to the societies is obvious. So obvious that at times people may take logistics for granted. Not many people cared to think about how people travel to fulfil their needs or how they are provided with any goods and services.