



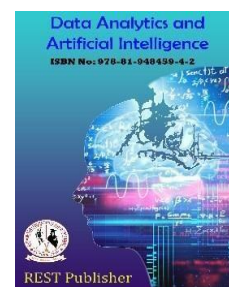
## Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence

Vol: 3(1), 2023

REST Publisher; ISBN: 978-81-948459-4-2

Website: <http://restpublisher.com/book-series/daai/>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46632/daai/3/1/25>



# Addressing Supply Chain Administration Challenges in the Construction Industry: A TOPSIS-Based Evaluation Approach

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**Abstract.** A multitude of Supply Chain Administration issues could make it difficult for commodities, information, and services to move effectively within the construction sector. Poor collaboration and communication may be the outcome of several stakeholders and the fragmented nature of the building industry. This dispersion makes it difficult to coordinate tasks effectively, which can cause delays and ineffectiveness. Additionally, a lack of transparency regarding material availability, location, and status can lead to miscommunication and poor decision-making. Unreliable lead times for materials and equipment, along with inventory management complexities, further exacerbate supply chain issues. Inefficient transportation and logistics, quality control and inspection problems, project complexity, and environmental sustainability concerns are other key challenges. Overcoming these obstacles requires proactive planning, effective communication, and the implementation of technologies to enhance visibility and coordination throughout the chain of supply in construction. The research significance of studying Construction Supply Chain Administration Issues lies in its potential to address critical industry challenges. By identifying and understanding the specific issues faced in construction supply chains, researchers can develop strategies and solutions to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and minimize delays in construction projects. Improved Supply Chain Administration can lead to streamlined operations, optimized inventory management, better coordination among stakeholders, and enhanced sustainability practices. This research contributes to the advancement of the construction industry by enabling more effective decision-making, improved project outcomes, and increased competitiveness for construction companies. Since TOPSIS is a multi-criteria decision-analytical method, it is given priority. A decision-making technique called TOPSIS (Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution) ranks alternatives according to how closely they resemble the ideal solution and how far they are from the unfavorable ideal answer. Alternative Parameters taken as Supplier1, Supplier2, Supplier3, Supplier4. Evaluation parameters taken as Quality, reputation, technology, level, compatibility, cost, distance. The highest-ranking Supply Chain Administration Issues in the Construction Industry utilizing the TOPSIS Analysis approach is shown in Table 5 along with the preference score. Supplier 1 is in first place, followed by Supplier 2 in second, Supplier 3 in third, and Supplier 4 in last. The TOPSIS approach is used to produce the end product. Construction Supply Chain Administration Issues pose significant challenges in the modern era. Embracing technology, fostering collaboration, and optimizing logistics are vital for tackling issues like supplier reliability, cost control, quality assurance, and distance-related inefficiencies. By addressing these challenges head-on, the construction industry can achieve improved project outcomes, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability. It is imperative to prioritize transparency, agility, and innovation to transform the supply chain and adapt to the evolving needs of the modern construction landscape. This will drive industry-wide progress, foster resilience, and ensure successful project delivery in an increasingly complex and competitive environment.

**Keywords:** Construction supply chain; heavy equipment supply chain; CSCM; WSM; WASPAS; VIKOR

## 1.INTRODUCTION

"Although businesses have been managing supply chains for years, they have never had to contend with the kind of competition they have now. Even before the term "Supply Chain Administration (SCM)" was coined in 1982,

studies studying the integration and coordination of various functional units within an organisation were conducted (Oliver and Webber 1982). According to them, the supply chain elevates the function of the logistics department to that of major issue for top management because only top management can ensure the reconciliation and balancing of competing objectives.[3]

Project owners, architects, prime contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers are all subject to sourcing risks in the construction industry. The relationships between these entities increase the likelihood of errors and issues. Among the dangers are:

- Internal financial issues
- Issues with working capital
- Poor planning and specifications
- Delivery reliability issues
- Project owner's slow payment
- Issues with bulk materials' quality

The entire supply chain could go bankrupt as a result of one or more of these unfavorable circumstances, either separately or all at once. In order to eliminate and minimize supply chain sourcing risks, alternative techniques must be identified and evaluated. The certification, prequalification, and monitoring of all supply chain actors may be the most crucial aspect of risk management.[2]

Supply chains can take on a variety of shapes and can range greatly in their complexity and diversity, as has been generally acknowledged (Cox, 1999). On bigger projects, the supply chains for materials, components, and a variety of construction services are generally made up of hundreds of separate businesses (Dainty et al., 2001). It is arguable that the persistent reliance on a dispersed and mostly outsourced labour has reduced prospects for process integration and made this supply network more complex.

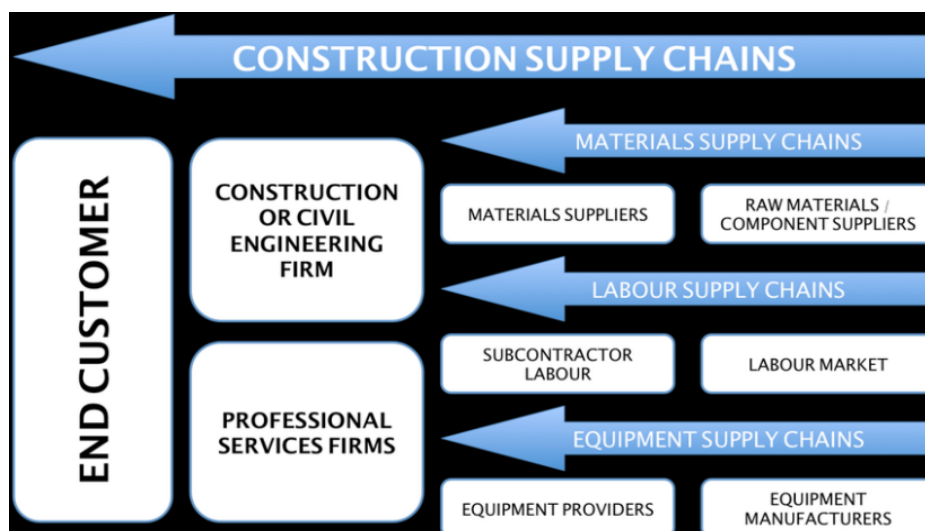


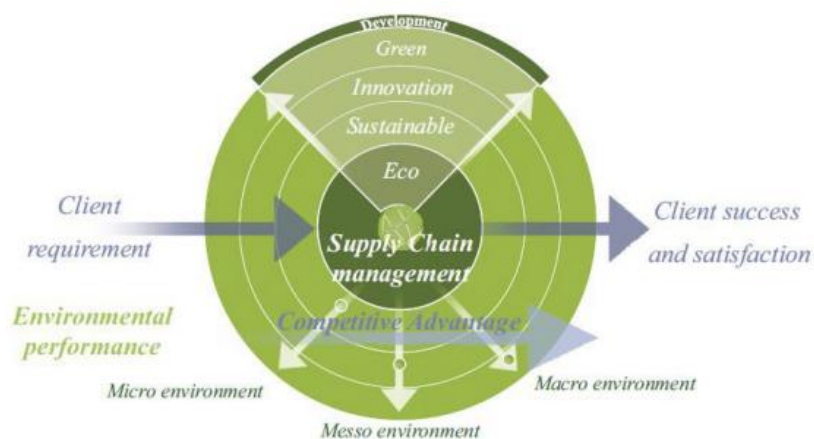
FIGURE 1. Construction Supply Chain Management

In fact, the industry has experienced reorganisation since the mid-1970s, resulting in the rise of what at this point appears to be a strongly entrenched, low-skilled, labor-intensive industry (Borsh and Philips, 2003). Most large contractors operate as "flexible firms" (see Atkinson, 1984), a type of "hollowed out" structure marked by considerable outsourcing and a nearly sole focus on management and coordination tasks (ILO, 2001). This presents a difficult environment for the industry's initiatives and procedures to be provided in unison.[4]

The construction sector creates some of the most intricate and substantial things through a project-based production process that is typically dispersed over numerous locations. In the construction business, particularly when it comes to money and payments, these intricate supply networks significantly increase risks and problems. Every project may be conceived of as a new supply chain because there are a sizable number of new outputs, manufacturers, suppliers, subcontractors, sub-subcontractors, and others in a new geographical region. The construction sector often uses long, dynamic, network-structured supply networks rather than vertical, limited supply chains. [5].

Improving construction performance in construction Supply Chain Administration (CSCM) urgently calls for coordination of the supply chain. Interorganizational problems at CSC Despite the fact that technology and culture have significantly changed the construction industry over the past several decades, various study initiatives show that CSC still has a lot of problems and that construction is still unproductive. All project participants must have access to timely, reliable information since it is the foundation upon which choices are made and tangible progress is created. Because of this, effective communication is always the key factor in whether a building project is successful or not.[6]. Supply chains (Fig. 1) are made up of potential suppliers, producers, distributors, retailers, and customers. This decision-making process is made more unexpected and confounding by the fact that the supplier selection process is routine and that customer expectations are frequently changing. The proper running of an ASC depends on selecting a reliable supply partner, which has the potential to increase effectiveness, efficiency, quality, safety, and profit.

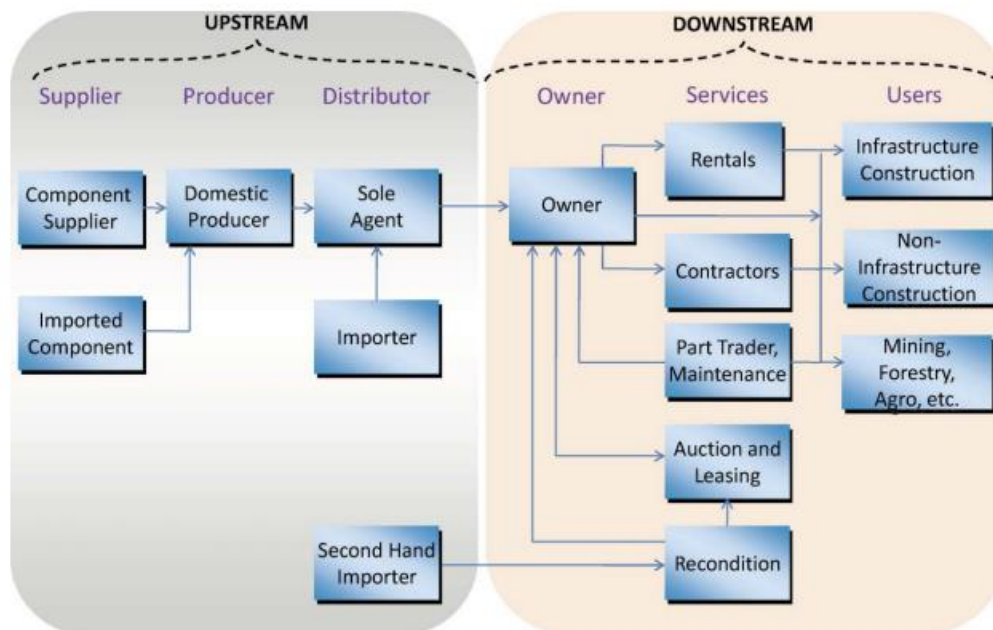
Supplier selection is the process of selecting a productive alliance of manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers based on the variety and amount of goods and services provided to clients. [7]



**FIGURE 2.** Supply Chain Management

"A fundamental idea in SCM is collaboration with suppliers and subcontractors." The performance of the construction project and the supply chain as a whole can be improved by long-term partnerships and collaboration with suppliers and subcontractors. According to Akintoye et al. (2000), the majority of contractors are aware of the value of creating a long-term working relationship with suppliers and subcontractors in order to enhance material quality and save costs. According to Thunberg et al. (2017), a communication problem that might hinder the flow of materials is a lack of collaboration among project participants. The cost of logistics can be reduced by limiting vehicle mobility and improving the reliability of material delivery (Vidalakis et al. 2011, Wegelius-Lehtonen 2001). DiranWickramatillake et al. (2007) advocate for more contractor and supplier inter-organizational communication, collaboration, and learning to achieve these cost savings. Nevertheless, subcontractors frequently enter the projects too late, according to Dainty et al. (2001). As a result, important information is lost. The importance of supplier involvement early in projects is highlighted by the dearth of long-term partnerships in the construction sector.[8]

Heavy machinery and equipment are often categorised based on the sectors in which they are used. They are then divided into additional groups based on the sorts and purposes they serve. Depending on their size and weight, they might be further split. According to the sector's use, some categories include agricultural machinery, building equipment, mining equipment, forestry equipment, and general-purpose equipment. They are organised based on the characteristics of other groups. For instance, heavy machinery used in the construction industry includes pile hammers, bore pilings, tower cranes, generators and passenger elevators. Launch beams and concrete paver machines are used in the construction of bridges. Dump trucks, mixer trucks, tanker trucks and crane trucks are used to transport materials. Bulldozers, excavators, compactors and motor graders are used to build roads. In addition, there are subcategories of equipment, such as heavy-, medium-, and light-duty equipment, based on the dimensions and weights of the tools[9]. There are four crucial roles for SCM in the construction sector, depending on whether the supply chain, the construction site, or both are the main focus. The main topic of discussion may be how the supply chain affects on-site operations. Spending less time and money on site activities is the goal. In this case, it's crucial to bring dependable manpower and material flows to the site in order to avoid workflow disruptions. Simply focusing on the relationship between the website and direct suppliers in Universal Journal of Management will accomplish this. The contractor, whose main interest is in site activities, is the perfect choice to use this strategy.



**FIGURE 3.** Map of supply chain for heavy machinery

Optimising the supply chain to cut costs, notably in logistics, lead-time, and inventory, is one area of attention in the construction sector.

Suppliers of materials and components are also given attention since they want to cut costs. Transferring tasks from the building site to earlier links in the supply chain is an alternative strategy. This can be motivated by a desire to avoid challenging on-site conditions or to improve coordination between activities, which is often difficult in on-site construction due to technical dependencies. The objective remains the same: to minimize costs and overall project duration. Suppliers or contractors may be the ones to start this change in emphasis. Another viewpoint is to combine Supply Chain Administration with on-site production management, thereby incorporating site production into Supply Chain Administration (SCM). To improve overall performance and efficiency, clients, suppliers, or contractors may take the initiative in driving this integrated strategy.[11]

However, the subcontracting system in the construction industry presents certain challenges. Subcontractors are typically smaller and financially weaker compared to general contractors. Construction work on-site is labor-intensive, making it difficult to control the workforce. Holding subcontractors accountable for problems can also be challenging. Additionally, small subcontractors often lack well-established policies and procedures, resulting in limited assurance of quality and professional competence. Therefore, it becomes crucial for the general contractor to oversee the subcontractors' performance to ensure compliance with the owner's requirements. Implementing Total Quality Management (TQM) can help general contractors improve their own performance. Because a sizable portion of construction work is outsourced, it is essential to apply TQM principles to subcontractors as well in order to ensure great performance from all businesses in the supply chain.[12]

The frequent imbalance of buyer and seller power qualities is another factor contributing to the low degree of trust in the buyer-supplier trade connection. In our opinion, practitioners can determine the actual situation that the parties to an exchange connection are experiencing by comprehending the resources that increase and decrease the relative power of customers and providers in a given exchange relationship. Only after this is understood will buyers and suppliers be able to choose which relationship management strategy is best for them[13]. Construction activity and the environment: As the overview below demonstrates, a lot has been written about the serious, permanent, and extensive effects that construction activity has on the environment. A quick description of the negative consequences and factors is provided in Table 1. Due to them, there are now more stringent legal requirements, environmental groups are exerting pressure, construction input costs are rising, some materials are no longer available, and some projects are being delayed (McKone, 1999). According to Pasquire (1999), compared to a 3.2% increase in overall costs, the cost of conserving the environment in the

UK has increased from 2% of the total building cost in the 1970s to 14% in the 1990s. However, Building (1999) notes that this additional expense now accounts for just 1% of the cost of building.[17]

To assess the logistical challenges associated with the material delivery process, the entire supply chain process is mapped using GIS, including the locations of suppliers, transportation, value-adding, and non-value-adding processes. The GIS module of the system uses descriptive data (such the transport network) and supplier locations to provide the most efficient way to keep transport expenses to a minimum. To clearly display who plays what part in the supply chain as well as where and how a feature moves/changes over time, value stream mapping symbols are utilised in the GIS maps. The ability to combine supply chain systems for transportation and warehousing is one benefit of this tactic. Since both warehouse and transportation management systems are used in the extended supply chain, they can work together to map the real flow of goods and reduce costs and lead times overall. Data interchange standards are required to make this information freely available and easily accessible after material requirements and attributes are defined.[18]

Mobile Internet technology, which is supported by a range of terminal devices including portable computers (such as PDAs), mobile phones, and wearable computers, has enhanced construction Supply Chain Administration (CSCM). Particularly PDAs have grown in favour among construction workers as a means of communication, information access, and other duties. These gadgets include capabilities such a calendar, contact book, note-taking capability, Internet browsing, desktop PC synchronization, and expandability via add-on software.[21]

BIM adoption and maturity hurdles have been discovered in numerous earlier research. According to Eadie et al. (2013), the main obstacles are a lack of project team and organisational skills, a lack of client and governmental directives. The absence of immediate advantages from initiatives that have already been completed and legal concerns with ownership are additional obstacles.[20]Barratt (2004) proposes the following components of a "collaborative culture" for the integration and collaboration of the supply chain within the construction industry:

- 1.Trust both within and outside.
2. Mutual gain
3. Information sharing within the supply chain
4. Clear and accurate information;
5. Effective understanding and communication amongst all parties
6. Goal consistency
7. Corporate SCM attention/emphasis [22].

Construction supply chain risk management (CSCRM) has only received a little amount of research. To comprehend the numerous contributions to the construction sector and pinpoint research needs, it is vital to examine the larger stream of Risk management for the supply chain (SCRM). To map risk variables and their effects on building projects, a thorough analysis is required.[23].

## 2.MATERIALS & METHODS

**1. Quality:** Concerns with materials, supplier reliability, a lack of quality control, inconsistent standard enforcement, and the overall capacity to meet project needs and customer expectations are all examples of quality concerns in the context of Supply Chain Administration for the construction sector.

**2. Reputation:** Late delivery, inferior materials, unreliable suppliers, and a failure to fulfil project deadlines or customer expectations can all be issues with a company's reputation in the Supply Chain Administration in construction.

**3. Technology level:** The term "technology level" in the context of Supply Chain Administration in the building industry refers to the adoption and integration of state-of-the-art technological solutions to streamline operations, improve communication, increase visibility, and address problems with information gaps, inefficiencies, and supply chain coordination.

**4. Compatibility:** Compatibility in the context of supply chain administration in the building industry refers to the alignment and integration of different systems, processes, and stakeholders to ensure seamless coordination, information sharing, and collaboration while minimising conflicts, inconsistencies, and compatibility issues that may impair effectiveness and productivity.

**5. Cost:** pricing-related issues in Supply Chain Administration for the construction industry include things like cost overruns, ineffective procurement procedures, a lack of pricing transparency, price volatility, insufficient cost control methods, and difficulties with maximising cost-effectiveness across the board.

**6.Distance:** Geographical separation between project sites, suppliers, and distribution centres presents difficulties in the construction supply chain management, which can result in higher transportation costs, longer lead times, logistical difficulties, and potential delays in material delivery and project completion.

## TOPSIS METHOD

To develop a multi-criteria decision-making process, the TOPSIS (Technique for Order Performance by Similarity to Ideal Solution) technique assigns a weighted value to each criterion. The best alternative will be picked depending on whatever alternative is closest to the positive ideal solution, which determines how the alternatives are arranged. The foundation of this approach is the premise that the selected option should be closest to the positive ideal solution and furthest from the negative ideal solution. [1] The 1981 invention of Hwang and Yoon, TOPSIS, is a simple ranking algorithm in terms of idea and application. The classic TOPSIS method looks for alternatives that are both most similar to the ideal solution that is positive and least similar to the ideal solution that is perfect. [6] Various methods have been employed over time to assess and choose the providers. These methods include of TOPSIS, neural networks, AHP, fuzzy sets theory, date envelopment, linear programming, cost-based methods, and date envelopment.[8]. The Technique for Order of Preference Approach by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) was utilised to resolve this issue and provide an explanation for the weights that meet the important requirements. [5] The primary economic activity of minorities is typically agriculture. Since the majority of minority communities are situated next to slopes, soil and water conservation are important issues that require more attention. Therefore, timely government action to boost the sales of agricultural goods may greatly raise these minorities' incomes. This research expanded on a Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) approach by offering a fuzzy model to include the AHP and fuzzy TOPSIS method in order to enhance a selection process for the established target. [16] AHP, ANP, and TOPSIS are often used techniques when dealing with fuzzy sets. On the other side, fuzzy EDAS is sometimes used to arrive at more susceptible solutions. A well-known decision-making domain is MCDM [15].The order of preference by resemblance to ideal solution (TOPSIS method) mathematical MCDMA methodology has been extended in numerous uncertain scenarios and used in a range of real-world applications.[4]. One of the MCDA/MCDM methods designed to cope with real-world decision problems is the Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS), which continues to function well across a range of application domains.[2]Agriculture's level of sustainability is difficult to gauge. This is brought on by the agricultural sector's high organisational and functional complexity, the variety of output, the variation in the conditions of production in various nations and areas, as well as the complexity of the economic, demographic, and social processes [20]. Various approaches could be used to explain economic phenomena. The model approach, the analytical description, and synthetic measures are frequently employed strategies. The ability to quantify a phenomenon that is described by a large number of features using only one element is the essence of synthetic measurements (Józwiak 2012).[17]In order to execute the fuzzy technique for order of preference by similarity to ideal solution (FTOPSIS), the verbal ratings of each risk component in the risk evaluation are combined with the weights established for the risk evaluation variables. Ranks for each risk item will be defined in accordance with the results of a combined application of TOPSIS, AHP, and FMEA procedures.[13] Quickly determining the optimal alternative is one of TOPSIS' relative advantages (Parkan and Wu, 1997).[10] The technique for order of choice by similarity to ideal solution (TOPSIS) has been used to rate the effectiveness and performance of the agritourism clusters.[7] Fuzzy logic, a subfield of mathematics, gives computer systems the ability to mimic the real world, where humans actually live. This is a simple method for using unclear, contradictory, and false information or knowledge[2].

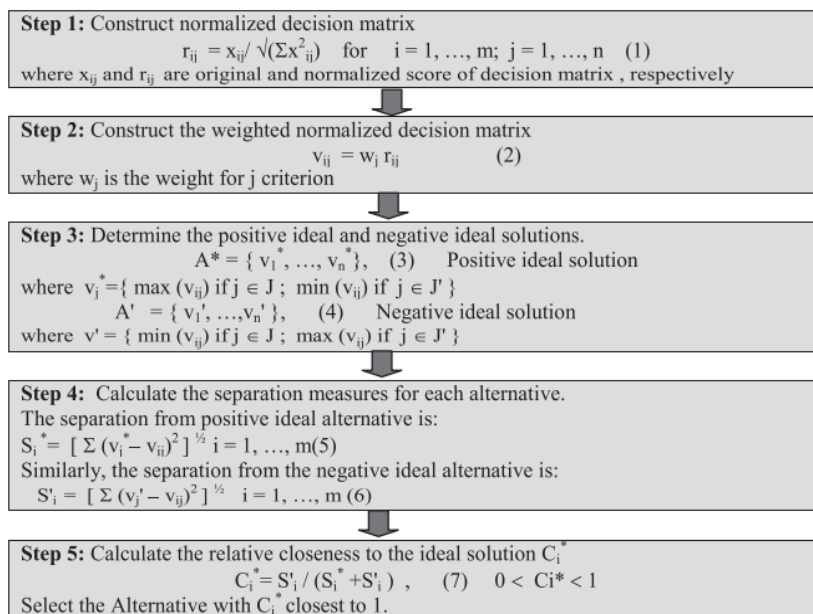


FIGURE 4. Five steps make up the research technique for this study [19]

### 3.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Construction Supply Chain Administration Issues

	quality	reputation	technology level	compatibility	cost	distance
Supplier1	49	37	39	36	23	12
Supplier2	42	45	38	39	25	26
Supplier3	44	40	42	42	19	32
Supplier4	42	39	45	39	27	45

The Challenges of Supply Chain Administration in the Construction Sector Using the Analysis Method of TOPSIS are displayed in Table 1. Suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are all available. Quality, reputation, technology level, compatibility, cost, and distance are the factors I value most.

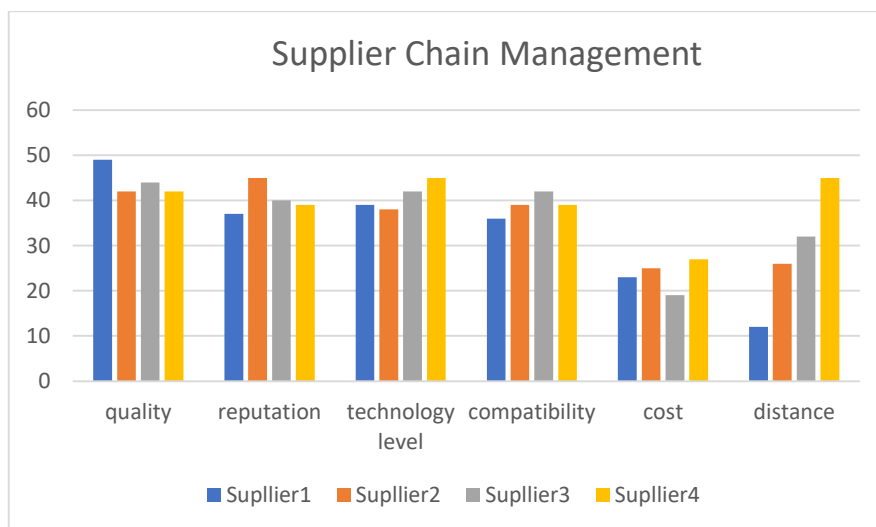


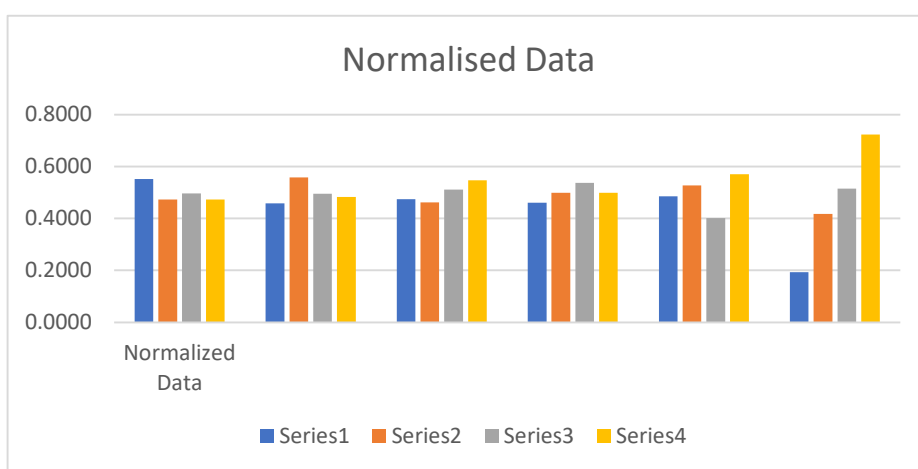
FIGURE 5. Construction Supply Chain Administration Issues

Figure 1 displays the Supply Chain Administration issues in the construction industry utilising the alternative analysis approach in WSM: suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Preferences for evaluation include quality, reputation, level of technology, compatibility, cost, and distance.

**TABLE 2.** Normalized Data

Normalized Data					
0.5525	0.4584	0.4746	0.4609	0.4855	0.1929
0.4736	0.5575	0.4624	0.4993	0.5278	0.4180
0.4961	0.4956	0.5111	0.5377	0.4011	0.5145
0.4736	0.4832	0.5476	0.4993	0.5700	0.7235

Using the alternative analysis technique in TOPSIS, Table 2 shows the Supply Chain Administration difficulties in the building sector for Suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Quality, reputation, technological level, compatibility, price, and distance are among the preferences that will be considered.



**FIGURE 6.** Normalised data

Suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are shown in Figure 2 as the Supply Chain Administration difficulties in the construction sector using the alternative analysis technique in WSM. Quality, reputation, technological level, compatibility, price, and distance are some of the criteria for consideration.

**TABLE 4.** Weighted normalized decision matrix

Weighted normalized decision matrix					
0.0921	0.0764	0.0791	0.0768	0.0809	0.0322
0.0789	0.0929	0.0771	0.0832	0.0880	0.0697
0.0827	0.0826	0.0852	0.0896	0.0668	0.0857
0.0789	0.0805	0.0913	0.0832	0.0950	0.1206

The Supply Chain Administration problems in the building sector using the alternative analysis technique in TOPSIS are shown in Table 4: suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Preferences for evaluation include quality, reputation, level of technology, compatibility, cost, and distance.



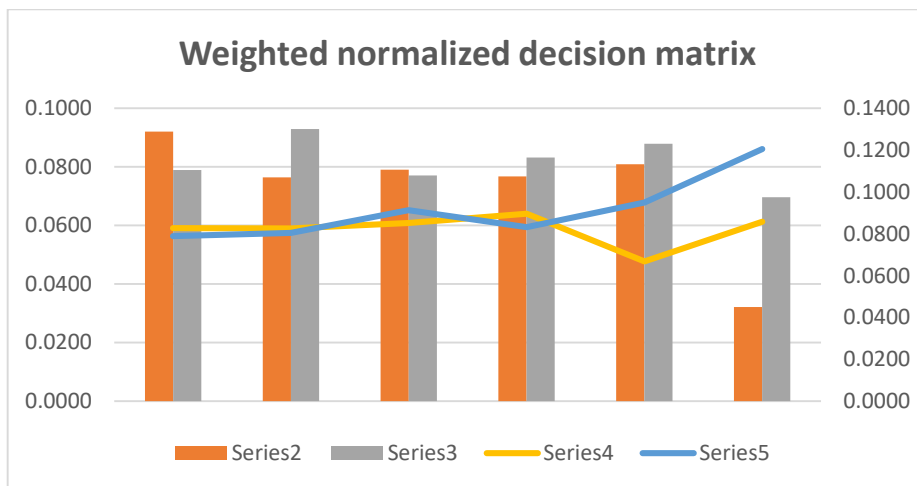


FIGURE 7. Weighted normalized decision matrix

Using the alternative analytical technique in TOPSIS, Figure 3 illustrates the Supply Chain Administration difficulties in the construction industry: suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Preferences for evaluation include quality, reputation, level of technology, compatibility, cost, and distance.

Table 5: Positive Matrix

0.0921	0.0929	0.0913	0.0896	0.0668	0.0322
0.0921	0.0929	0.0913	0.0896	0.0668	0.0322
0.0921	0.0929	0.0913	0.0896	0.0668	0.0322
0.0921	0.0929	0.0913	0.0896	0.0668	0.0322

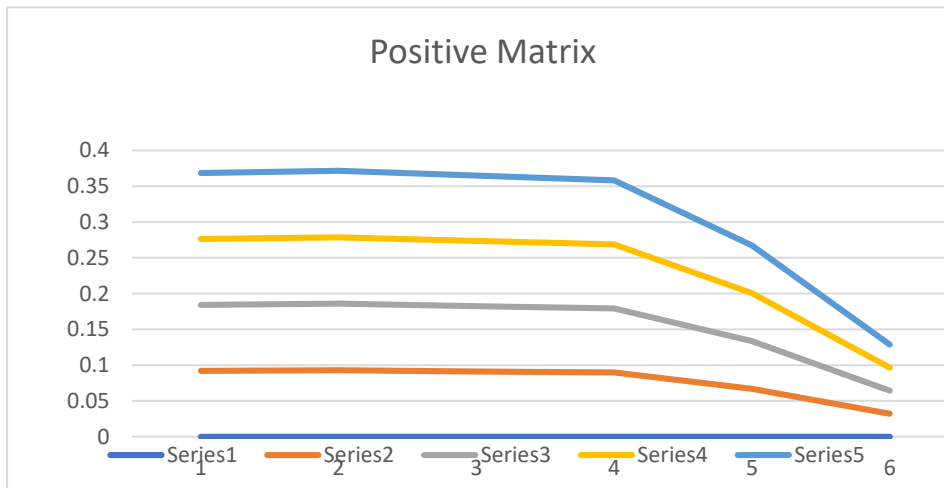


FIGURE 8 Positive Matrix

Figure 4 illustrates the Supply Chain Administration difficulties in the construction industry: suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Preferences for evaluation include quality, reputation, level of technology, compatibility, cost, and distance.

Table 6: Negative Matrix

Negative Matrix					
0.0789	0.0764	0.0771	0.0768	0.0950	0.1206
0.0789	0.0764	0.0771	0.0768	0.0950	0.1206
0.0789	0.0764	0.0771	0.0768	0.0950	0.1206
0.0789	0.0764	0.0771	0.0768	0.0950	0.1206

Table 6 shows the Negative Matrix of alternative and evaluation parameters.

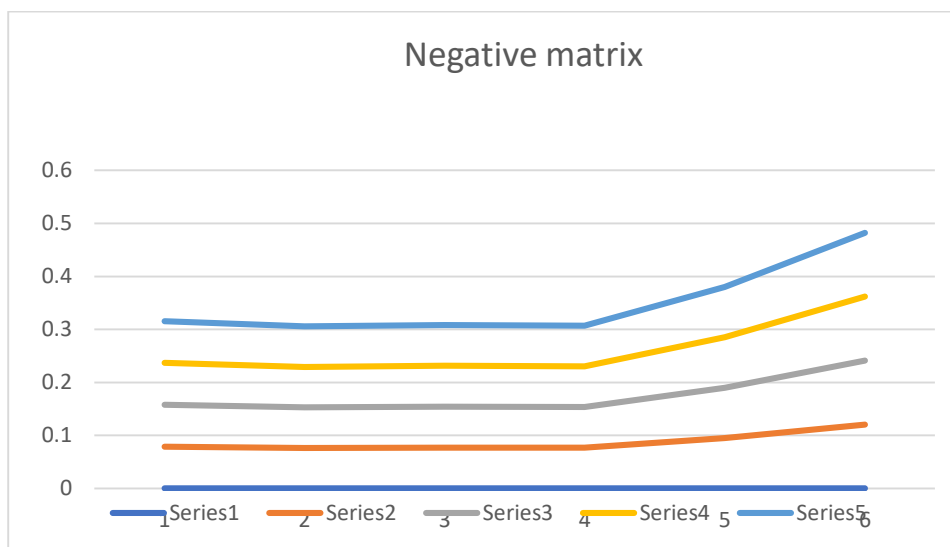


FIGURE 9. Negative Matrix

Figure 5 illustrates the Supply Chain Administration difficulties in the construction industry: suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Preferences for evaluation include quality, reputation, level of technology, compatibility, cost, and distance.

Table 7: Si+, Si-, Ci

Si +	Si -	Ci
0.0190	0.0905	0.8263
0.0455	0.0518	0.5325
0.0544	0.0467	0.4620
0.0939	0.0064	0.0638

Table 7 shows the Si+, Si- and Ci of alternative and evaluation parameters.

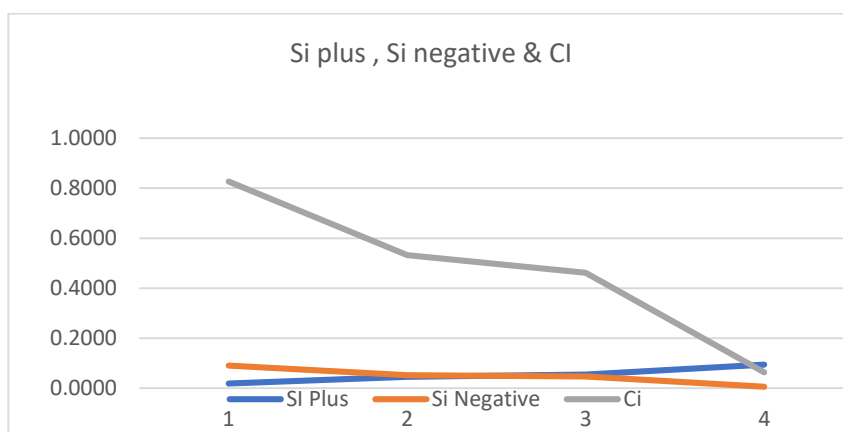


FIGURE 10. Si+, Si- & Ci

Figure 6 illustrates the Supply Chain Administration difficulties in the construction industry: suppliers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Preferences for evaluation include quality, reputation, level of technology, compatibility, cost, and distance.

	Rank
Supplier1	1
Supplier2	2
Supplier3	3
Supplier4	4

The highest-ranking Supply Chain Administration Issues in the Construction Industry utilizing the TOPSIS Analysis approach is shown in Table 5 along with the preference score. Supplier 1 is in first place, followed by Supplier 2 in second, Supplier 3 in third, and Supplier 4 in last. The TOPSIS approach is used to produce the end product.

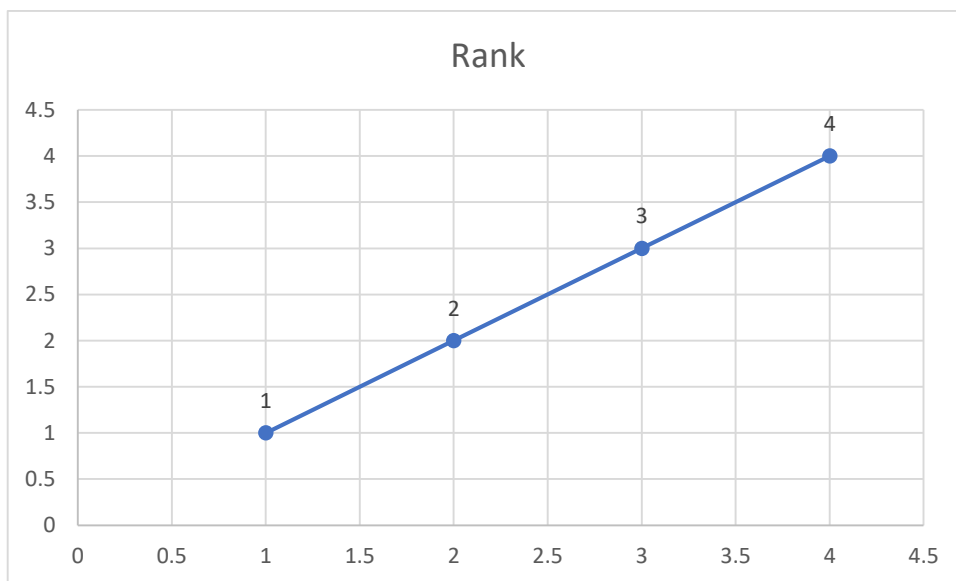


FIGURE 11. Rank

Figure 7 demonstrates the highest-ranking Supply Chain Administration Issues in the Construction Industry utilizing the TOPSIS Analysis approach is shown in Table 5 along with the preference score. Supplier 1 is in first place, followed by Supplier 2 in second, Supplier 3 in third, and Supplier 4 in last. The TOPSIS approach is used to produce the end product.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

To sum up, issues with Supply Chain Administration in the building industry can have a big impact on how projects turn out and how the sector performs as a whole. Project deadlines, costs, and quality can all be severely impacted by problems including material flaws, unreliable suppliers, inadequate technology integration, compatibility issues, and logistical difficulties brought on by distance. Resolving these problems requires a multi-faceted approach that emphasizes effective supplier selection, rigorous quality control measures, streamlined technology adoption, and enhanced collaboration among stakeholders. It is essential to establish transparent communication channels, enforce stringent standards, and implement robust logistics strategies to optimize the flow of materials and minimize disruptions. By addressing these Supply Chain Administration problems, construction companies can enhance project efficiency, improve reputation, mitigate risks, and achieve greater cost-effectiveness. In order to overcome these obstacles and improve the performance and competitiveness of the construction sector as a whole, embracing creative solutions and making use of emerging technology might be extremely important.

Construction requires effective Supply Chain Administration more than any other industry. Taking care of Supply Chain Administration issues assures timely material availability, decreases project delays, promotes quality control, lowers costs, and increases overall project effectiveness.

- Reduction of project delays
- Improved quality control
- Cost minimization
- Enhanced project efficiency
- Strong reputation management
- Meeting client expectation

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