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Difficulties and barriers observed in Cleaner Production implementation: literature review

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Abstract

This article has been written with the goal of contributing to the body of knowledge of Industrial Sustainability and, more specifically, initiatives utilizing the Cleaner Production methodology. As it is increasingly known in the academic and business community, industrial sustainability has nowadays become a matter of utmost importance. Therefore, the impetus to provide solutions and increase the knowledge basis of the different methodologies that aim to add up to this broader goal is highly relevant nowadays. The Cleaner Production approach is a preventive environmental *eco-efficiency* strategy that has been showing positive results since its debut in 1989. Since then, its goals have been broadened from the strictly operational dimension it had in its origins to a larger scope that seeks to embrace the goals of sustainability and, considering the triple bottom line strategy – economic, social and environmental goals – contribute to a more sustainable society. However, despite its dissemination, Cleaner Production methodology is not a unanimous consideration when companies' strategies are formulated and there are factors that hinder its adoption. Aiming to address this issue, this article utilized the method of bibliographic survey to seek, in the recent literature, which ones were the main barriers and difficulties found at different levels in promoting and implementing Cleaner Production. A total of 111 articles about the theme and from well-known scientific publishers have been thoroughly reviewed and sorted by its relevance to the authors goal. After the broader review, 38 articles were chosen to comprise a table presenting the main categories of specific barriers and difficulties mentioned and how many and which authors brought up each category. The results and categories have then been discussed and a conclusion drawn. Observing the results, it is possible to state that there is still a significant number of factors hindering the adoption of Cleaner Production. Those refer to a myriad of internal and external factors such as the participation of social actors that include governments, labor force, financial institutions and also internal organizational and also businesses operational questions in knowledge management, funding, follow-up issues and lack of properly qualified labor force, among others.

Keywords: *Cleaner Production, barriers and difficulties, literature review, sustainability.*