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Sustainable Supply Chain Management: The Missing Link of Social Sustainability

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Abstract

The social dimension of sustainability has been poorly investigated when compared to the environmental dimension, especially in sustainable supply chain management studies. This lack of attention is problematic for the theory and practice of managing sustainable supply chains. This research aims to help filling this gap and addresses the following question: how focal companies implement and manage social sustainability into their supply chains? The concepts of supply chain engagement and initial motivation shed additional light on the topic and taken together generate a useful model that can improve our understanding of the complex interactions between the management of supply chains and their social sustainability performance. We selected four cases of social initiatives undertaken by focal companies within their supply chains and used them as practical examples of the four different supply chain approaches to social sustainability developed in this paper. We finish the paper with implications of this research for the practice of supply chain management as well as contributions to the associated theory.

Keywords: *Supply Chain Social Sustainability; Sustainable Supply Chain Management; Supply Chain Engagement; Sustainable Motivation; Sustainability.*
