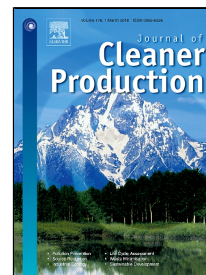# Accepted Manuscript

Modeling the interrelationships among barriers to sustainable supply chain management in leather industry

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Modeling the interrelationships among barriers to sustainable supply chain management in leather industry

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Modeling the interrelationships among barriers to sustainable supply chain management in leather industry

Abstract

The leather industry of Bangladesh is facing considerable amounts of pressure to adopt sustainable supply chain management (SSCM). While there are some studies that have examined barriers to SSCM practices in developed and developing countries in various domains, these are not necessarily applicable to the Bangladeshi leather industry. To bridge this gap, it is crucial to identify most influential barriers to SSCM practices, particularly in the context of developing economies. Therefore, this study identifies such barriers and examines the causal relationships between them with an aim to facilitate the effective implementation of SSCM in the Bangladeshi leather processing industry. Thirty-five barriers to SSCM implementation were identified through a detailed literature review and a survey of leather processing industry experts. Among them, the most common 20 barriers were selected with the help of industry experts. Then, a blended, grey-based Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL) approach was utilized to examine their interrelationships. The results demonstrate that nine barriers could be classified as "causal" and eleven as "influenced". 'Lack of awareness of local customers in green products' and 'lack of commitment from top management' took high priority in the causal group. 'Lack of reverse logistics practices' and 'Outdated machineries' were the most influenced barriers. This research uses a leather processing company as a case study for demonstrating the proposed model. The findings aim to support the leather processing industry in a structural way, so that industrial managers can identify the most influential barriers and work to eliminate them. This study may be useful to stakeholders to achieve sustainable development.

1. Introduction

Environmental sustainability, green issues, and social sustainability have become increasingly popular among researchers and supply chain managers due to government regulations, customer expectations, and pressures imposed on buyers for green products. However, the rapid development of the leather industry in Bangladesh requires a concurrent increase in supply chain activities (Bai et al., 2017). An increase in such activities has implications for natural resource usage, waste generation, water pollution, emission of harmful gases and disruptions to the ecosystem (Luthra et al., 2011; Muduli et al., 2013; Rauer and Kaufmann, 2015). Meanwhile, sustainable supply chain management (SSCM) implementation can help to ensure long-term environmental, social and economic benefits for both leather companies and customers. In addition, SSCM practices can integrate environmental, social and supply chain management techniques with the goal of preventing or minimizing environmental

degradation, improving social sustainability and enhancing economic sustainability (Diabat and Govindan, 2011).

However, the leather industry in Bangladesh is also facing tremendous global pressure to adopt SSCM practices in its traditional manufacturing systems. Although, in developed countries, there are currently competitive, regulatory and social pressures to adopt SSCM practices. Various organizations in developed countries have adopted diverse environmental management strategies, such as adopting cleaner technology (Grutter and Egler, 2004), achieving ISO 14001 certification (Junjie et al., 2007; Jabbour, 2015; Jabbour, 2010), implementing environmental management systems to minimize the adverse environmental effects of their supply chains and developing socially responsible supply chain management strategy (Nawrocka et al., 2009; Jabbour et al., 2012; Jabbour and Jabbour, 2016). Nowadays, developed countries are also used clean technologies to reduce waste for the protection of the environment (Pagell and Wu, 2009; Seuring and Müller, 2008; Walker and Jones, 2012; Zailani et al., 2012).   So far, some authors tried to examine the barriers to green supply chain management (GSCM) and SSCM practices in the context of other country, particularly in other domain. Also, the lack of examining barriers to SSCM practices in the context of leather processing company has received lesser attention to researchers and practitioners. However, a few studies were conducted to examine the interactions of barriers to SSCM practices in the context of the developed and developing countries. Hence, this study adopts leather industry as example applications of barriers identification and finding interaction among identified barriers to SSCM implementation.

We select leather processing company supply chain for example applications due to multiple reasons. Firstly, the leather industry is responsible for polluting the environment and has a negative social impact. Secondly, the leather sector is the 2nd-highest ranked growth and investment potential in the export-earning segment due to the raw materials availability, cheaper labor cost, transportation facility etc. Thirdly, the leather industry in Bangladesh is facing tremendous global pressure to adopt SSCM practices in its traditional manufacturing systems. Fourthly, leather manufacturing companies are trying to implement sustainable supply chain management practices by incorporating environmental, social and economic issues. The above - mentioned reason motivated us to evaluate the interactions of barriers to SSCM implementation in the context of the leather industry. Hereafter, this SSCM practices can help leather processing companies to integrate tipple bottom dimensions (e.g., environmental, economic, and social) to minimize or eliminate waste in all its forms, including harmful gas emissions, water pollution, soil pollution, and solid waste for environmental suitability; to enhance the economic performance including profit maximization, reputation building, gaining competitive advantages and to achieve the social responsibility.

1.1 Motivation and Contribution

Recent studies on sustainable and green supply chains have been conducted in developing countries in various domains. Govindan (2017) developed a conceptual framework for sustainable consumption and production practices in food supply chains. (Mangla et al., 2017) analyzed barriers to sustainable consumption and productions practices. Vanalle et al. (2017) investigated green pressures, practices, and performance within the Brazilian automotive supply chain. Kusi-Sarpong et al., (2016) developed a framework for green supply chain practices in the Ghanaian mining industry, while Sadaghiani et al. (2015) evaluated the external forces affecting supply chain sustainability in the oil and gas industry. Recent studies also show that in the next couple of decades, most Asian manufacturers will have to face several environmental and social issues (Mangla et al., 2017). To the best of our knowledge, the literature indicates that there has been no research that has analyzed and quantified the interaction of barriers to SSCM implementation in the context of leather industries.

In the Bangladeshi leather processing industry, traditional supply chain management practices need to be made more sustainable. In this regard, SSCM practices may help make traditional systems more sustainable by not only considering environmental issues, but also social and economic ones. Implementing SSCM practices in the context of the Bangladeshi leather industry will be challenging due to the numerous barriers that currently exist. In this sense, this research raises some questions:

a) *What are the key barriers to the implementation of SSCM practices in leather processing companies' supply chains?*

b) *How can managers evaluate the cause and effect relationships between selected barriers?*

The specific objectives of the present study are:
1. To identify the key barriers to the adoption of SSCM practices in the leather processing companies of Bangladesh.
2. To understand the cause and effect relationships between a selection of these barriers.

To fulfil these objectives, this paper adopts a two-phased methodology which includes 1) a literature review to identify major barriers and facilitate a deeper analysis of the leather processing industry, and 2) identification of common barriers and their relative impacts based on feedback from industry experts, using a grey-based Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL) approach.

A "grey" number can be described as the number of uncertain data points which can generate a required outcome (Dong and Luo, 2006). The Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL) approach can help to find structural relationships between barriers through analysis of related digraphs. DEMATEL can show the relationships between barriers; however, it is sensitive to data uncertainty. *Combined* grey-based DEMATEL can help to overcome such

uncertainty. For this reason, we choose a grey-based DEMATEL approach for examining interrelationships between barriers so that industrial managers can clearly observe their causes and effects.

1.2 SSCM and Decision-Making Methodology

To deal with multi-criteria decision-making problems, it is necessary to utilize multi criteria decision analysis (MCDA) tools to analyze and rank the criteria. Several MCDA tools are available in the literature. The motive behind the use of grey-based DEMATEL tools is explained in the previous sub-section. Grey-DEMATEL has been applied in many fields, including the food packaging industry (Zhigang Wang et al., 2015), hospital services (Shieh et al., 2010), and the automotive spare parts industry (Wu and Tsai, 2011). The use of DEMATEL in various fields of SSCM is shown in **Table 1**.

<p align="center">***<Take in Table 1 about here>***</p>

1.3 Organization of the Paper

The rest of the research paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the theoretical background of the study. The grey-DEMATEL methodology is discussed in Section 3. Section 4 describes a real-world application to Bangladeshi leather processing companies and models the barriers to their implementation of SSCM practices. Section 5 provides the results and a discussion of the present research. Theoretical and managerial implications are presented in Sections 6. Finally, conclusions, unique contribution and further research scope are provided in Section 7.

2. Theoretical Background

In this section, we discuss a detailed literature review on SSCM, sustainable supply chain management practices in the Bangladeshi leather industry, an overview of the leather industry in Bangladesh, and the proposed research methodology.

2.1 Sustainable Supply Chain Management

Sustainable supply chain management involves the management of environmental, economic and social impacts and encourages good manufacturing practices throughout the lifecycle of products (Mathivathanan et al., 2017). Sustainable supply chain management helps to link development and environmental issues, and to drive political and economic change locally, nationally, and globally (Mangla et al., 2017). It is applied to traditional supply chain management by considering environmental, economic, and social issues (Su et al., 2015).

Recently, SSCM practices have been of great concern around the world due to government regulations, customer expectations, and pressures imposed on buyers for green products (Marcon

et al., 2017). Accordingly, SSCM, a cross-disciplinary field, has been growing in popularity both in industrial managers and researchers (Sarkis et al., 2011). Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to satisfy human needs while protecting natural resources. The literature on SSCM is still in the nascent stage. Carter and Rogers (2008) mentioned sustainability as a strategy for gaining long-term economic benefits via the key integration of environmental, social, and economic factors. Many researchers have indicated SSCM can be an integrated approach for minimizing ecological degradation (Esfahbodi et al., 2016a; Harms, 2011). Sustainability has become a popular global concern and hence, motivated industrial organizations are modifying their supply chain activities and considering the environmental, social, and economic impacts of their supply chains (Carter and Easton, 2011; Carter and Rogers, 2008). Sustainability is taken into consideration because of legislation, public awareness, and competitive opportunity. From this point of view, SSCM is an activity that helps to modify traditional supply chains. This modification is part of the sustainable development of an organization. A truly sustainable organization can simultaneously achieve social, environmental and economic benefits.

A wide variety of issues, like supply chain risk mitigation and sustainability, are incorporated in SSCM. Along with this, the SSCM approach includes product safety and performance, protection of the environment, and ensuring good governance. Targets of SSCM include reducing operational energy consumption, increasing renewable energy use, reducing water consumption, reducing hazardous waste generation, and reducing environmental impacts from manufacturing etc. (Jayant and Azhar, 2014; Rauer and Kaufmann, 2015; Walker et al., 2008). During recent times, micro-economic applications have been investigated in the fields of engineering, operations, and supply chains (Sarkis, 2012). In most cases, sustainability was described as *ecological sustainability*, with little recognition of its social and economic aspects (Jabbour et al., 2013b; Jabbour et al., 2015). Recent studies on SSCM management practices show how the pressures from government, stakeholders and customers aid in effectively adopting sustainability into existing supply chain networks (Bouzon et al., 2016a; Egilmez et al., 2014). Given their adverse effects on the environment, top priority should be given to the implementation and maintenance of sustainable supply chains. This can ensure a developed infrastructure for future generations in developing countries. A summary of the existing literature on SSCM and green practices is shown in **Table 2**.

<Take in Table 2 about here>

2.2 Sustainable Supply Chain Management Practices in the Bangladeshi Leather Industry

Bangladesh is a developing country with a history of pursuing economic growth without considering the environment. Rapid economic development and overpopulation have destroyed many of the country's natural resources through pollution of the water, air, and soil, etc. (Hoque and Clarke, 2013). The sustainability of supply chains has yet to become a matter of consideration due to a lack of legislation. Hence, it is important to develop a sustainable

manufacturing framework in such a way that environmental depletion can be minimized (Diabat and Govindan, 2011). Eco-friendly and clean technologies have played important roles in the sustainable development of the leather sector in Bangladesh. Hence, the implementation of SSCM practices will become one of the dominating factors in the survival of the leather industry in the near future. Also, scientific research and knowledge will definitely help the leather industry to adopt the SSCM operational procedures, and to motivate government to implement SSCM legislation. Operational implementation of SSCM in industry should be a part of compliance maintenance, as per the International Standard Organization (ISO). Most of the research conducted up to now has been focusing on developed countries (Zaabi et al., 2013) Therefore, this research helps to develop a sustainable supply chain framework by identifying and analyzing the various barriers to SSCM in the leather processing industry of Bangladesh. This may help new companies to set up sustainable supply chains, and help existing companies to make their supply chains more sustainable.

2.3 A Brief Overview of the Bangladeshi Leather Industry

The government of Bangladesh has indicated that the leather industry has the 2nd-highest ranked growth and investment potential in the export-earning segment. Due to its high availability of raw materials, finished leather and less manufacturing cost, the leather sector has already been pronounced a potential sector of the country. Currently, Bangladesh delivers quality bovine, ovine and caprine leather (wild ox, bovine, sheep and goat) to local and global markets that demand quality skins (Paul et al., 2013).

Apart from the export of quality leather, Bangladesh also exports a huge amount of leather goods like ladies handbags, backpacks, wallets, belts, travel bags, and leather footwear to developed countries like China, France, Italy, Germany, USA, UK, Japan, Spain, and the UAE (Technical Report, 2013). The entire leather sector of Bangladesh meets only 0.5% of the world's leather demand, which worth is USD 75 billion (Paul et al., 2013).

Approximately 187 tanneries are located in the Hazaribagh area of Dhaka, which produce 180 million square feet of hides and skins per year. The supply-cycle of raw skins and hides is 40-45% of the annual supply available during the festival of Eid-ul-Azha, which is the major source of producing quality leather. However, only about 40 tanneries are utilizing a major portion of their installed capacity, indicating that "sickness" exists in the sub-sector. This leather sector has a long-established tanning industry which produces around 1.13% of the world's leather from a local supply of raw hides and skins. Most of the tanneries in Bangladesh do not have proper effluent treatment plants and thus generate 20,000 m^3 of tannery effluent and 232 tons of solid waste per day. This effluent and solid waste is a critical issue for sustainable manufacturing practices in the leather industry. To minimize this waste, specific cleaner technologies must be adopted as part of SSCM practices in Bangladesh's leather industry (Technical Report, 2013).

7

A newly established "leather zone" is expected to bring substantial changes to the leather industry by introducing centre effluent treatment plant (CETP) which will help to reduce water and soil pollutions. Also this will help to implement sustainable manufacturing system. Overall this will help to increase the image in global market. Therefore, this sustainable manufacturing practices and cleaner production will be a key issue for the development of the nation. In this regard, the leather sector of Bangladesh requires sustainable manufacturing practices to achieve international standards in technical, environmental, safety, and commercial aspects, and to attain competitiveness in the world market. An export earnings summary of Bangladeshi leather and leather products is shown in **Table 3**.

<Take in Table 3 about here>

2.3 Research Methodology

To apply the research framework to a real-life problem, we need to finalize the most common barriers to the implementation of SSCM. Based on our literature survey of implementation barriers to SSCM, a deep analysis of the leather processing industry, and discussions with a team of four experts from the case company, 35 barriers was identified. From these 35 barriers, 20 were selected for analysis, and their interactions were evaluated via the grey-based DEMATEL approach. The proposed research framework is shown in **Fig. 1.**

<Take in Fig. 1 about here>

3. Solution Methodology

Grey theory, from grey sets, was first initiated by Deng (1989). Grey systems methodology can manage many of the uncertainties which arise from human decisions (Dong and Luo, 2006; Fu et al., 2001). Most importantly, grey theory can be combined with any decision-making methods to improve the quality of judgments (Asad et al., 2016; Li et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2011). The modified CFCS (converting fuzzy values into crisp scores) method helps to amend grey numbers into crisp numbers by a three-step procedure (Fu et al., 2012). One of the main advantages of a grey system is that it can give acceptable outcomes using small amounts of data. Therefore, grey theory was used to solve various uncertainty problems with discrete data.

The *decision-making trial and evaluation laboratory* (DEMATEL) method is best suited for analyzing complex causal relationships among various factors (Hsu et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2012). DEMATEL is a structural modeling approach which can represent the interdependence of various factors and their cause-effect relationships in the form of a digraph (Su et al., 2015). In the DEMATEL method, all the factors (which, in this study, are barriers to SSCM) are divided into cause and effect groups to help identify their causal relationships. The procedure for grey-DEMATEL methodology is described as follows:

Step 1: Obtain the initial relation matrices

Let the number of identified common barriers to SSCM practices be *n,* and the respondents chosen be *l.* Each respondent (*k*) is given the task of evaluating the direct influence of barrier *i* over barrier *j* on an integer scale ranging from [0, 0.1], [0.1, 0.3], [0.2, 0.5], [0.4, 0.7], [0.6, 0.9], [0.9, 1], indicating *no influence, very low influence, low influence, medium influence, high influence and very high influence* among the *n* barriers. Thus, set up *l* initial comparison relation matrices based on the ratings obtained from the respondents.

Step 2: Formulate the grey relation matrices

Upper and lower values of the grey scales need to be identified from the integer rating scale (Ju-Long, 1982; Julong, 1989), i.e.,

$$\otimes y_{ij}^{\ k} = \left(\underline{\otimes} y_{ij}^{\ k}, \overline{\otimes} y_{ij}^{\ k} \right). \tag{1}$$

Where, $1 \le k \le l; 1 \le i \le n; 1 \le j \le n$.

The initial relation matrices are converted into grey relation matrices based on the obtained grey values, i.e.,

$$\left[\otimes y_{ij}^{\ 1} \right], \left[\otimes y_{ij}^{\ 2} \right], \left[\otimes y_{ij}^{\ 3} \right], \dots \dots, \left[\otimes y_{ij}^{\ l} \right].$$

Step 3: Calculate the average grey relation matrix

The average grey relation matrix $[\otimes \tilde{y}_{ij}]$ is computed (Kose et al., 2013; Lin et al., 2004) from *l* grey relation matrices, $\left[\otimes y_{ij}^{\ k} \right]$; *k= 1 − l* as,

$$\tilde{y}_{ij} = \left(\frac{\sum\limits_{k} \underline{\otimes} y_{ij}^{\ k}}{l}, \frac{\sum\limits_{k} \overline{\otimes} y_{ij}^{\ k}}{l} \right). \tag{2}$$

Step 4: Calculate the crisp relation matrix from the average grey relation matrix

The grey values are modified into crisp values by the modified CFCS method (Arikan et al., 2013; Dou et al., 2014) following a three-step procedure described as follows:

(*i*)   Normalization of the grey value

$$\underline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} = \left(\underline{\otimes} \tilde{y}_{ij} - \min_{j} \overline{\otimes} \tilde{y}_{ij} \right) / \Delta_{\min}^{\max} \tag{3}$$

Where $\underline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij}$ indicates the normalized lower limit value of the grey number $\otimes \tilde{y}_{ij}$.

9

$$\overline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} = \left(\overline{\otimes} \tilde{y}_{ij} - \min_j \overline{\otimes} \tilde{y}_{ij} \right) / \Delta_{\min}^{\max} \tag{4}$$

Where $\overline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij}$ indicates the normalized upper limit value of the grey number $\otimes \tilde{y}_{ij}$

$$\Delta_{\min}^{\max} = \max_j \overline{\otimes} y_{ij} - \min_j \underline{\otimes} y_{ij} \tag{5}$$

(ii) Calculating total normalized crisp value

$$Z_{ij} = \left[\frac{\left(\underline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} \left(1 - \underline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} \right) \right) + \left(\overline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} \times \overline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} \right)}{\left(1 - \underline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} + \overline{\otimes} \dot{y}_{ij} \right)} \right]. \tag{6}$$

(iii) Computing the final crisp values

$$Z^* = \left(\min_j \underline{\otimes} \tilde{y}_{ij} + \left(Z_{ij} \times \Delta_{\min}^{\max} \right) \right), \tag{7}$$

And $Z = \left[Z_{ij}^* \right].$ (8)

Step 5: Calculate the normalized direct crisp relation matrix

In this step, the normalized direct crisp relation matrix (P) is obtained by computing Q and multiplying Q with the average relation matrix Z. That is,

$$Q = \frac{1}{\max\limits_{1 \le i \le n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} Z^*_{ij}}, \tag{9}$$

And, P = Z × Q (10)

Each element in matrix P falls between zero and one.

Step 6: Compute the total relation matrix

In this step, the total relation matrix (T) is calculated by the following equation,

$$T = P \times (I - P)^{-1} \tag{11}$$

Where I is the identity matrix.

Step 7: Obtain the cause and effect parameters by summing rows and columns

Assume t_{ij} denotes the elements in the total relation matrix, T. Let r and c be defined as $n \times 1$ and $1 \times n$ vectors representing the sum of row elements and sum of column elements for the total relation matrix T, respectively. If r_i represents the sum of the ith row elements in matrix

T, then r_i summarizes both the direct and indirect effects of barrier I towards the other barriers. If c_j represents the sum of the jth column elements in matrix T, then c_j summarizes both the direct and indirect effects received by barrier j from other barriers, i.e.,

$$r_i = \Sigma_{j=1}^{n} t_{ij} \forall i \tag{12}$$

$$c_j = \Sigma_{i=1}^{n} t_{ij} \forall j \tag{13}$$

When $j = i$, the sum $\left(r_i + c_j \right)$ indicates the total effects given and received by barrier i; i.e., $\left(r_i + c_j \right)$ represents the degree of importance that the barrier i plays in the entire system. On the other hand, $\left(r_i - c_j \right)$ outlines the net effect that the barrier i contributes to the entire system. If $\left(r_i - c_j \right)$ is positive, barrier i is the net cause. Barrier i indicates the net effect if $\left(r_i - c_j \right)$ comes out to be negative value.

Step 8: Compute the threshold value from the total relation matrix and plot the digraphs for the total relation matrix, T, providing information on how one barrier affects another barrier. A threshold value needs to be calculated to avoid any complexity in plotting the digraph. It is assumed that values greater than the threshold have higher influence during the adoption of SSCM practices. Threshold values are usually computed as the sum of the mean values and the standard deviation of the elements in the total relation matrix T. In the digraph, the causal relations are plotted from the dataset of $\left(\left(r_i + c_j \right), \left(r_i - c_j \right) \right) \forall i = j$.

4. Application of the proposed framework

The proposed research framework was applied to a leather processing company from Hazaribagh, Dhaka, which we shall call "XYZ". This company was selected as a representative case for the implementation of SSCM practices. XYZ is a global export-oriented leather processing company which began manufacturing in 1977. It exports crust and finished leather to developed countries like Japan, Korea, Italy, and China. It also supplies finished leather for a footwear company of their own brand codename, referred to here as "ABC footwear". In fiscal year 2015—2016, this leather processing company earned USD 35 million. Due to its remarkable contribution to economic development, it is important to consider SSCM practices in their production. To improve sustainability in their supply chain management practices is a recent concern and has emerged as the subject of our research.

Recently, XYZ became interested in implementing SSCM practices to sustain their business in the global market. Therefore, they have strived to identify the barriers to the adoption of SSCM in their supply chains, and the interactions between those barriers. This research helps to achieve this goal.

4.1. Data Collection

In the process of data collection, a team of four experts from XYZ was formed. The required data were collected from industry professionals. Data collection was performed in two phases, as outlined below:

Phase 1: Finalizing the most common barriers to implementing SSCM practices

At first, we identified 35 barriers to SSCM practices through a literature survey, and deeper survey on leather processing companies. These barriers may be applicable to specific industry categories and specific countries. To identify the most relevant barriers in the social, economic, and technological context of the Bangladeshi leather industry, experts were asked to add or delete barriers to SSCM practices from the listed 35 barriers. The four experts comprised a supply chain executive, production manager, logistics executive, and leather technologist from the XYZ company. They had sufficient knowledge of supply chain management, operations, risk management and logistics, and each had over 15 years' professional experience. We collect responses from the experts by providing questionnaires and then we arranged several discussion sessions to consolidate the information. Subsequently, 20 barriers from four major groups were identified. We then used input from the experts to evaluate comparisons of the identified barriers for the purpose of developing a grey-DEMATEL model.

Phase 2: Evaluation of the comparison of identified barriers to SSCM practices

We communicated the objectives and methodology of our research to the expert panel and asked them to fill a pair-wise comparison matrix, which was necessary for developing the grey-DEMATEL model.

The barriers to adopting SSCM practices that were considered in this study, and related literature, is summarized in **Table 4**. A summary of codes used to identify the most common barriers is provided in **Table 5**.

<Take in Table 4 about here>

<Take in Table 5 about here>

The application of the proposed framework to the case of leather processing company XYZ is explained as follows:

Step 1:

12

Experts helped to evaluate the direct influence of one barrier to the other barriers on linguistic-based grey scales, as discussed in Section 3. Four initial 20 × 20 comparison matrices were formulated based on the integer grey scale ratings.

Step 2:

In this step, four initial grey relationship matrices were formulated $\left([\otimes y_{ij}^{1}],[\otimes y_{ij}^{2}],[\otimes y_{ij}^{3}],[\otimes y_{ij}^{4}]\right)$ based on the influence ratings obtained from the four supply chain experts using Equation (1). The obtained matrix for Expert 1 (supply chain executive) is shown in **Table A1** in **Annexure 1**. The matrices for Expert 2 (production manager), Expert 3 (logistics executive) and Expert 4 (leather technologist) were constructed similarly.

Step 3:
In order to achieve homogeneity of judgment, in this step, equal weightings were assigned to all experts and we computed the average grey relation matrix $\left([\otimes \tilde{y}_{ij}]\right)$ using Equation (2). This average grey relation matrix is shown in **Table 6**.

<div align="center"><i><Take in Table 6 about here></i></div>

Step 4:
In this step, using a three-step procedure involving the modified CFCS method, the crisp relation matrix Z was formulated from the average grey relation matrix. The crisp relation matrix was computed using Equations (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8), and is shown in **Table A2 in Annexure 1**.

Step 5:

The normalized direct crisp relation matrix P was constructed from the crisp relation matrix by normalization using Equations (9) and (10), and is shown in **Table A3** of **Annexure 1**.

Step 6:
The total relation matrix T was constructed using Equation (11), and is shown in **Table 7**.

<div align="center"><i><Take in Table 7 about here></i></div>

Step 7:
Let r and c be defined as *20 × 1* and *1 × 20* vectors denoting the sum of the row values and the sum of the column values for the total relation matrix T, respectively. Using Equations (12) and (13), r_i and c_j values are computed. The cause and effect parameters $\left(r_i + c_j\right)$ and $\left(r_i - c_j\right)$ were constructed from the total relation matrix (T) for values $i = j$, and are shown in **Table 8**.

<div align="center"><i><Take in Table 8 about here></i></div>

Step 8:

The cause and effect digraph was developed using the total relation matrix. A threshold value (θ = 0.178) was calculated by adding the standard deviation (σ) to the mean (μ) of the elements in the total relation matrix *T*, to filter out comparably negligible cause-effect among different barriers. **Figure 2** presents the resulting digraph showing the cause-effect relationships among the common barriers, plotted from the data set of $((r_i + c_j), (r_i - c_j)) \forall i = j$. The arrow represents the direction from *cause* barriers to *effect* barriers. Two-way significant relationships between barriers are presented as dotted lines, whereas one-way relationships are indicated using solid lines (**Fig. 2**).

<center>*<Take in Fig. 2 about here>*</center>

5. Results and Discussion

Cause-effect relations among major barriers to SSCM for the study supply chain were plotted and are summarized in **Table 9**. As stated earlier, a grey-based DEMATEL approach was applied to analyze the most influential barriers to the adoption of SSCM practices. A threshold value (θ) of 0.178 was considered in this research to reduce the complexity of the digraph and to eliminate some of the minor barrier effects. Threshold values were computed from the total relation matrix, *T*. The barriers were ranked in terms of importance, based on $(r_i + c_j) \forall i = j$ values as follows; KS1 > KS2 > S1 > F1 > S2 > T3 > KS4 > E4 > T4 > E1 > F2 > T1 > E3 > E2 > T2 > F3 > S3 > KS3 > F4 > S4.

5.1 Cause Group

The causal barriers were ranked based on $(r_i - c_j) \forall i = j$ values as follows: E4 > KS2 > F1 > E1 > S1 > S2 > KS4 > KS1 > T3 **(Fig. 2)**. In this causal group, *Lack of awareness of green products in local customers* (E4) and *Lack of commitment from top management* (KS2) seemed to be the crucial driving barriers. These can generate effects in many of the other barriers. We discussed the results with the industry experts and they accepted that these barriers were major ones. *Lack of awareness in local customers* (E4) is one category of environmental issues which can obstruct green supply chain implementation. When customers lack awareness of the environmental impacts of products, top management will be less interested in implementing SSCM.

Lack of commitment from top management (KS2) was among the major causal barriers to SSCM implementation. In Bangladesh, top management is not interested in implementing SSCM because of insufficient funds. Such implementation requires large investment. Hence, this barrier emerges as a big issue during SSCM implementation. Integrating SSCM practices into the total supply chain system needs large investments to modify existing systems and, hence, top

14

management do not want to implement SSCM in their companies, especially in leather processing industry.

The third most importance causal barriers to SSCM implementation is the *cost of sustainability and economic conditions* (F1). Therefore, a combination of the cost of sustainable practices and the poor economic conditions existing in Bangladesh hinders the implementation of SSCM in traditional supply chain systems.

Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partners (E1) was identified as the fourth causal barrier to SSCM. In Bangladesh, many supply chain partners are not conscious of the ecological implications of products, which hinder the implementation of SSCM. The other causal barrier is *lack of support and guidelines from regulatory authorities* (S1). This is one of the barriers that has the most influence on other barriers to SSCM implementation in the leather processing industry. In Bangladesh, the regulatory authorities do not actively support SSCM practices and have no regulations to encourage their implementation in the manufacturing industry. This barrier a major obstacle. It is necessary to eradicate this barrier to reduce its influence over the other barriers to SSCM implementation.

Absence of society pressure (S2) is found as another important causal barrier to the implementation of SSCM practices. Bangladesh is an overpopulated country. Most of the people are not aware of green practices, sustainability, and environmental issues. This, in turn, badly affects the manufacturing industry. There is a great opportunity to remove other barriers by increasing society's general awareness about the environmental impacts of the products they consume.

Lack of training and education about sustainability (KS4) is one of the *knowledge and support*-related causal barriers. Introducing training and education may help in adopting SSCM practices in the leather processing industry because the employers and owners of leather companies do not have sufficient knowledge of sustainability issues. By introducing proper training, the problem can be rectified to a certain extent.

Information gap (KS1) was the eighth-most important causal barrier. An overall lack of information on sustainability, green supply chains, reverse logistics, social sustainability, and economic sustainability is one of the major barriers to adopting SSCM practices. Overcoming this barrier can help to implement SSCM practices in leather processing industry.

The last but not least was the *lack of cleaner technology* (T3). The lack of clean technologies in the leather processing industry is largely responsible for its environmental impacts. Especially because waste water is often discharged directly into rivers, thereby polluting the air, soil, and water. Chemicals used in tannery operations produce solid waste which can directly pollute water and soil. Introducing cleaner technology can help to modify the current situation and ultimately improve SSCM practices.

5.2 Effect Group

The "effect" group can be sorted on the basis of $(r_i - c_j) \forall i = j$. As shown in **Fig. 2**, the rank order of effect barriers was T2 > S3 > S4 > F4 > E2 > F3 > KS3 > F2 > T1 > T4 > E3. These eleven barriers are directly influenced by the nine causal barriers to SSCM practices in the leather processing industry. *Resistance to change and adopting innovation* (T2) was near to the causal group and hence, was less influenced by causal barriers. Other *effect* barriers were: *lack of demand and pressure for lower prices* (S3), *less business-friendly policies* (S4), *green power shortage* (F4), *lack of environmental requirements* (E2), *lack of funds for sustainable supply chain practices* (F3), *limited access to market information* (KS3), *capacity constraints* (F2), *lack of technical expertise* (T1), *outdated machinery* (T4), and *lack of reverse logistics practices* (E3). All of these barriers are easily influenced by the *causal* barriers. During establishment of SSCM practices, it is necessary to identify the *cause* and *effect* barriers so that action can be taken against them. This research can help managers to identify these cause-effect relationships and gain practical insights to introducing SSCM practices in the leather processing industry.

5.3 Correlations between the barriers

According to $(r_i + c_j) \forall i = j$, the barriers can be ranked as follows KS1 > KS2 > S1 > F1 > S2 > T3 > KS4 > E4 > T4 > E1 > F2 > T1 > E3 > E2 > T2 > F3 > S3 > KS3 > F4 > S4. *Information gap* (KS1) seemed to have the highest correlation with other barriers. This is because information about SSCM can obstruct to adopt SSCM practices in existing supply chains and for new entrepreneurs. In Bangladesh, the major obstacle is *information gap*. Insufficient knowledge about SSCM is a major barrier to SSCM implementation. In every branch of the supply chain network of the Bangladeshi leather industry, people are unaware of green products, reverse logistics, social issues, environmental requirements, and sustainability. The ultimate result is pollution of the water, soil, and air, etc. Bangladesh needs to create various SSCM training and educational facilities that ensure that manufacturers and customers are conscious of products' environmental impacts.

In this study, it was perceived that each barrier is directly influenced other barriers. In **Fig. 3**, the barriers located above the *x*-axis have most influence over the network and are indicated as *causal* group barriers. The other barriers, which are located under this line, are indicated as *effect* barriers. The barriers in **Fig. 3** can be divided into four regions for accurate analysis of their influences. In **Fig. 3**, Zone 1 represents the barriers with the least influence on other barriers, and their potential importance is low. *Resistance to change and adopting innovation* (T2), *lack demand and pressure for lower prices* (S3), *less business-friendly policies* (S4), *green power shortages* (F4), *lack of environmental requirements* (E2), *lack of funds for sustainable supply chain practices* (F3), *limited access to market information* (KS3), *lack of technical expertise*

(T1), and *lack of reverse logistics practices* (E3) are the barriers in this zone. Zone 2 also represents the causal relationships among the different barriers which have a low influence on SSCM implementation. In this research, there is no barrier in Zone 2.

Zone 3 represents the barriers which have the highest significance. These barriers are located in the causal group and should be considered for SSCM implementation. These barriers can help managers to undertake proactive and reactive steps to adopt SSCM practices in their supply chain networks. Included in Zone 3 are the barriers of *Lack of awareness of local customers in green products* (E4), *lack of commitment from top management* (KS2), *cost of sustainability and economic conditions* (F1), *lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partners* (E1), *lack of support and guidelines from regulatory authorities* (S1), *absence of societal pressure* (S2), *lack of training and education on sustainability* (KS4), *information gaps* (KS1), and *lack of cleaner technology* (T3). Zone 4 indicates the barriers which have high significance but are in the *effect* group. In this zone, *capacity constraints* (F2) and *outdated machinery* (T4) seem to be the high significant barriers which have high influence during SSCM practices by other causal barriers. Ranking of the importance of barriers, for both the cause and effect groups, is shown in **Table 9**.

<Take in Fig. 3 about here>

<Take in Table 9 about here>

5.4 Comparison with existing literature

The results reveal that **'Lack of awareness of local customers in green product (E4)'** found as topped causal barriers to SSCM implementation in the context of leather industry. Contrary to our findings, Zaabi et al., (2013) studied on barrier to assess the interaction among barriers to implementing SSCM in the context of India, however, their evaluation process does not consider this barrier. A study by Bouzon et al., (2016) showed that the barrier 'lack of customer awareness' received the least priority in the global rank in the context of Brazil for reverse logistics implementation. Our finding also aligns with the present macro perspective challenges of the business organizations in the context of the globe. As for example, Esfahbodi et al., (2016) affirmed that increasing pressure from consumers may force manufacturing industry to adopt SSCM practices in emerging economies. Chen et al., (2006) and Raut et al., (2017) reported that costumers' environmental awareness may act as a crucial driving force for the manufacturing companies to implement the SSCM practices. Govindan et al., (2014) showed that lack of customer awareness for greening the supply chain is the crucial barrier for Indian manufacturing industries. A recent study by Moktadir et al., (2018) argued that customer awareness towards sustainable manufacturing practices and a circular economy may help leather processing companies modify the liner economy to circular economy. Andiç et al., (2012) affirmed that environmental conscious consumers able to force the manufacturing company though the choice of green products. The above mentioned literature confirmed that lack of customer awareness

may act as crucial causal driving barriers which can drive the effect group barriers simultaneously during implementing SSCM in the leather industry of Bangladesh.

Next the *'Lack of commitment from top management (KS2)'* barrier received the second most priority in the causal group. Contrary to our findings, several authors claimed that this barrier may not act as causal barrier rather than influenced barrier (Zaabi et al., 2013; Govindan et al., 2014). Zaabi et al., (2013) showed that the lack of top management commitment has received less driving power but has received high dependency which indicated that lack of commitment from top management may not able to drive the company to adopt SSCM practices for the Indian manufacturing companies. Govindan et al., (2014) also claimed that top management involvement may not act as crucial barriers in the context of Indian manufacturing industry. Bouzon et al., (2016) evaluated the barriers to reverse logistics implementation; however they did not take this barrier for the final evaluation process for the Brazilian manufacturing companies. Raut et al., (2017) investigated critical success factor of SSCM practices in the context of oil and gas industry. They also ignored the contribution of top management for SSCM implementation in the context of India whereas our findings cofirm that top management commitment may drive the leather industry towards sustainable manufacturing practices. Mittal et al., (2013) conducted a study on drivers and barriers to green manufacturing in the context of India and Germany and they reported that the barrier 'lack of commitment from top management' received the least priority also for both countries. Our finding also supported some previous findings. As for example, Luthra et al., (2017) evaluated the driver sustainable to production and consumption implementation in the context of Indian and suggested that the support from management can help manufacturing industry continuously to improve the sustainable manufacturing practices, Gandhi et al., (2015) confirmed that lack of top management commitment may act as causal barriers because of top management commitment may act as decision power for the successful implementation of green practices, Moktadir et al., (2018) also suggested that for sustainable manufacturing practices, top management may drive the total implementation process, Ali et al., (2017) argued that lack of top management commitment may hinder the revere logistics practices for greening the supply chain in the domain of computer supply chain for Bangladesh.

Cost of sustainability & economic condition (F1) got the third position in the causal group. In this case, our finding matched with present macro perspective challenges of the business organizations in the context of the globe. As for example, Nordin et al., (2014) demonstrated that for the implementation of sustainable manufacturing practices in Malaysian manufacturing firms needs huge cost as this require conversion of conventional manufacturing system. Research from Shrivastava, (1995) claimed that implementation of SSCM practices is unprofitable and it requires more investment. Therefore, similar to Giunipero et al., (2012), our finding indicated that cost of sustainability and economic condition may act as one of the stronger barriers in the context of leather processing companies. Min and Galle, (2001) showed that green purchasing for GSCM implementation requires huge investment. Zaabi et al., (2013) demonstrated that cost

18

of sustainability & economic condition is a crucial causal barrier for Indian manufacturing industries for SSCM implementation. Bhanot et al., (2015) reported that cost of sustainability is one of the main barriers for sustainable manufacturing practices. Some authors (Green et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2012) pointed out that SSCM practices may potentially help organizations to achieve better economic performance in the global business networks. The above findings ensure that the cost of sustainability and economic condition is aligned with our findings and the present macroeconomics challenges for SSCM implementation.

Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partner (E1), identified as a fourth ranked causal barrier that may act as significant causal barrier for the SSCM implementation. Eco-literacy amongst supply chain partner can act as a crucial driving barrier for SSCM implementation. Vachon, (2007) argued that literate supplier can influence the organizations to adopt SSCM practices as SSCM practices can help to reduce negative environmental, economic and social effect. Literate supplier can force the companies to strictly follow the environmental rules and regulations as agreed by (Mathiyazhagan et al., 2013; Govindan et al., 2014a; Vachon, 2007; Zhu and Sarkis, 2006). Moktadir et al., (2018) suggested that supplier can impose pressure over companies or organizations to implement the SSCM practices to comply the environmetal and social sustanability of the leather manufactuirng. Although several researchers avoid this barrier to assess the impact of barriers for SSCM implementations as for example Walker et al., (2008) explored barriers to implement green supply chain management initiatives in the perspective of private and public sectors but unfortunately they did not mention the contribution of supplies for GSCM initiative. Similarly Zaabi et al., (2013) avoided this barriers to find the interactions of barriers in the context of India. Finally, it is evident from the litearture search that lack of eco-literacy amongest supply chain partner can drive the other influenced barriers for SSCM practices in the context of Bangladesh.

Our findings indicates that *Lack of support and guideline from regulatory authority (S1)* can influence other effect group barriers significantly as this barrier has received fifth position in the priority ranking. In Bangladesh, the regulatory authorities do not actively support SSCM practices for the leather industry. However, the support and guideline from regulatory authority is mandatory for SSCM implementations. Many previous researches on green supply chain, reverse logistics, green purchasing, sustainable supply chain implementations indicated that support and regulations from regulatory authority can act as key driving fuel for sustainable development of a country (Govindan et al., 2014b; Walker et al., 2008; González-Torre et al., 2010; Prakash and Barua, 2015). Zhu et al., (2007) believed that guideline from regulatory authority may be able to force the manufacturing companies to implement green practices. Lin, (2011) evaluated the green supply chain management performances and he suggested that regulations may able to drive the total implementation system greatly. Contrary to our findings, Zaabi et al., (2013) mentioned that appropriate regulations may not act as causal barriers for SSCM implementations rather than can act as an effect group barrier for Indian manufacturing industry.

19

Pressure from nongovernment organizations (NGO) and environmental interest community can motivate industrial managers and decision makers to undertake SSCM practices in order to increase their global reputations, to minimize social and environmental impact and to improve the supply chain efficiency (Lin, 2011; Vafadarnikjoo, 2014a, 2014b). Similar to Henriques and Sadorsky, (1996), our findings suggested that society pressure may influence the other barriers greatly to improve the sustainability of the supply chains. Our finding also matched some previous research on green supply chain implementation literature as for example Muduli et al., (2013) investigated the barriers to green supply chain management in Indian mining industries and they mentioned that lack of pressure from society may act as crucial barrier. Moktadir et al., (2018) reported that society pressure can help to improve the sustainable manufacturing practices in the context of leather industry. Hence, *absence of society pressure (S2)* has received the sixth position in the causal group barrier due to leather industry faces lack of pressure from society as well as from NGO. The improvement of this barrier may influence the other effect group barriers. Therefore, improvement of this barrier can drive the leather companies towards sustainable development. Our findings also contradicted previous some studies as for example Xia et al., (2015) investigated the internal barriers for automotive parts remanufacturers in the context of China and they did not blame that society pressure can influence the automotive industry for remanufacturing practices, Zaabi et al., (2013) tried to find the interactions among SSCM implementing barriers and they also avoided the effect of society pressure for SSCM implementation process in the context of India.

In this study, *Lack of training and education about sustainability (KS4)* has received the seventh position in causal group. Contrary to our research findings, Nordin et al., (2014) reported that training and education about sustainability may not act as barriers to sustainable manufacturing practices for Malaysian manufacturing firms. Tay et al., (2015) conducted a review on drivers and barriers towards SSCM practices and they did not consider training and education about sustainability as a barrier for SSCM implementation. Lieder and Rashid, (2016) demonstrated that social awareness is crucial for a successful transition from a linear economy to a circular economy. Bhanot et al., (2015) and Teixeira et al., (2016) pointed out that training and education about suitability may act as enabler for sustainable manufacturing practices. Several researchers (Ametepey et al., 2015; Bhanot et al., 2017, 2015; Diabat et al., 2014) mentioned that training and education has a lack influence on SSCM practices. Our findings also matched some studies on various domain as for example (Raut et al., 2017) investigated the critical success factors of SSCM practices and they mentioned that training may act as causal factor and it can facilitate the implementation process, Moktadir et al., (2018) investigated the drivers to sustainable manufacturing practices and a circular economy in the context of leather industry and claimed that training and education has a great influence on sustainable manufacturing practices, Zaabi et al., (2013) believed that training and education about sustainability has great driving power to drive the traditional system towards sustainability in the context of Indian manufacturing companies.

20

The barrier ***Information gap (KS1)*** is the most common hurdle to SSCM implementation in the context of leather industry. Industrial mangers or decision makers of the Bangladeshi leather companies are either unable to implement SSCM practices due to lack of sufficient knowledge or they fail to understand the importance of SSCM practices. Presently awareness on sustainability issues like waste minimization, proper utilization of resource and energy, prevention of pollution, as well as minimization of negative social impact, accident preventions strategy, are not well practiced in the case of leather industry. This finding aligns with previous literature from various countries as for example Muduli et al., (2013) pointed out that information gap can be played as substantial constraint for GSCM initiation for Indian mining industry, Moktadir et al., (2018) believed that awareness of decision makers and customers on sustainability may drive the leather companies towards sustainable manufacturing practices, Govindan et al., (2014b) have tried to evaluate the barriers for GSCM implementation in Indian manufacturing companies and pointed out that information gap still hamper the implementation process. Contradiction of some previous work can be summed up below: Zaabi et al., (2013) did not believe that information gap can act as barriers for Indian manufacturing industry rather than training can help decision makers of Indian mining industry to greening the supply chain, (Rakesh K. Mudgal et al., 2010) tried to modeling the barriers to green supply chain management in the perspective of India and they did not blame that information gap can influence the implementation process, (Sajjad Jalalifar, 2013) reported that information gap can be influenced by other GSCM implementing barriers in the context of Iranian manufacturing industry.

Hoque and Clarke, (2013) reported that leather processing industry is one of the most polluted industrial sectors of Bangladesh. Hence it necessary to adopt cleaner technology based advanced technology to minimize the environmental pollutions. In this study, ***Lack of cleaner technology (T3)*** identified as causal driving barriers that means it can influence other effect group barriers. Our findings matched with some previous research on green supply chain, reverse logistics etc. For Example, Wang et al., (2015) investigated the GSCM implementing barriers of food packaging industry in the context of India and claimed that lack of advanced technology hamper the environment greatly. Environmental degradation is largely responsible for lack of advanced technology as reported by many authors (Wang et al., 2015; Mittal and Sangwan, 2014; Chien, 2014; Zhu and Sarkis, 2007). Mudgal et al., (2010) pointed out that cleaner technology help to minimize the creation of pollution and waste in production processes. Liang et al., (2016) reported that cleaner technology can help Chinese biofuel industry to minimize the pollutions for sustainable development. Xia et al., (2015) investigated the internal barriers for automotive parts remanufacturing industry and claimed that without advanced technology, it is impossible to remanufacture automotive parts. Therefore, it is clear that cleaner technology can facilitate the leather processing companies to minimize the water, soil and air pollution greatly and also can help to minimize the negative society impact. Cleaner technology is mandatory for manufacturing process in the developed countries (Subramanian and Gunasekaran, 2015; M.-L. Tseng et al., 2013). Hence, some literature also contradicted our findings as well as existing

21

literature. For example, Zaabi et al., (2013) did not consider this barriers for Indian manufacturing industries, Diabat and Govindan, (2011) investigated the drivers to GSCM implementation and they also avoid cleaner technology as a driver for green practices.

The above mentioned literature confirmed that the identified all nine causal barriers may act as crucial driving barriers which can drive all of the influenced barriers simultaneously during implementing SSCM in the leather industry of Bangladesh.

5.5 Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analysis is a process to test the robustness of results. For this purpose, a different weighting was assigned to one expert's feedback, while keeping equal weightings for the other experts. This can be done in a number of ways, for example, by changing the level of weightings given to experts or to the various barriers. In this study, we use archetypal sensitivity analysis by assigning separate weightings to experts. For example, first, the weight assigned to Expert 1 was 0.4, while the other experts were assigned a weight of 0.2.

For sensitivity analysis, we made four separate total relationship matrices by multiplying each weight assigned to the different experts in response to **Table A1**, and other similar matrices. After that, average relationship matrices were computed and, finally, the cause-effect relationships among the different barriers were established. The weight assigned for four experts, and the ranking of different barriers during sensitivity analysis, are shown in **Tables 10** and **11**.

<Take in Table 10 about here>

<Take in Table 11 about here>

Therefore, the digraphs obtained from the sensitivity analysis for Expert 1 are shown in **Fig. 4**. The other digraphs, for Expert 2, Expert 3 and Expert 4, were plotted similarly.

<Take in Fig. 4 about here>

From the digraph above, it is clear that there was no major change in barrier rankings after sensitivity analysis. The same rank order for cause-effect barriers for each expert was obtained, accepting minor rank order variation. Therefore, the sensitivity analysis confirms the robustness of obtained results.

6. Theoretical and managerial Implications

This section provides theoretical and practical implications of present study. This research has novel contributions both in cleaner production body of knowledge and in practical fields particularly for an emerging economy.

6.1 Implications to theoretical knowledge

It is evident from the results that the identification of the most influential barriers is necessary to ensure sustainable manufacturing practices and sustainable development. Hence, this study contributes to stakeholders' theory which facilitates the stakeholders to minimize the negative environmental, social and economic impact and to enhance the sustainability of supply chains (Sarkis et al., 2011). The stakeholders are those groups of entities that can affect or can be affected by companies or organizations performance. The stakeholders may be the customers, owners, government, society, buyers, media, non-government organizations etc. This study may contribute the theoretical framework by influencing the group of outside stakeholders (like customers, buyers, media, NGO etc.) by realizing the negative impact of social, environmental of the current practices of leather companies supply chains. This outside stakeholders may force leather companies to implement SSCM practices to reduce the negative environmental, social and economic impacts. Internal stakeholders (owners of the leather companies) may also able to realize the importance of sustainable manufacturing practices for the leather companies thus will help decision makers and industrial mangers to design the environmental and socially friendly supply chain networks. Therefore, this study will help to improve the sustainability performance of the leather companies. This observations can motivate the leather companies to incorporate the stakeholders concerns in its existing manufacturing practices which will turn potentially improve the sustainable manufacturing practices.

6.2 Implications to practice

The results of this study have important implications for decision makers involved in the implementation of SSCM. From this study, several managerial suggestions were formed. The *effect* group can easily influenced by the *cause* group and, therefore, managers should give most attention to *causal barriers* when implementing SSCM practices in their traditional supply chains. This study will help managers to define the barriers needing greater attention within their industries and to identify which ones are less important. The ranking of *cause* and *effect* group barriers can assist managers and decision makers to develop strategic policy during SSCM implementation. The results of this research framework could encourage decision makers and industrial managers to adopt the SSCM practices which are the most important to sustainable development, and have the greatest effect on transforming traditional supply chains. Managers can consider this framework as a benchmark for improving traditional supply chains, leading to improved environmental, social and economic sustainability.

6.3 Implications to policy

This study offers several specific policy related implications which may facilitate decision makers and industrial managers to improve the current state of practices towards sustainable development of the leather sector of Bangladesh. The specific polices are presented below*:*

⇒ Developing customer awareness towards sustainability: This study may help local customers to understand the benefit of green products and the better understanding of local customer

23

on green products may create extra force on decision makers and industrial manager to produce environmentally friendly products as a part of SSCM practices in the traditional supply networks. The customers awareness may help decision makers to build some strategic policy to improve the present state of condition,

⇒ Expanding funds and support from top management: Implementing SSCM practices are cost effective decision. Hence, to be more sustainable in the global market, it is necessary to introduce SSCM practices. Therefore, this research will help managers and decision makers to expand more funds and support to implement SSCM practices. This study also may help decision makers to realize the upcoming global trends and help to motivate to implement SSCM practices.

⇒ Initiating training program on sustainability issues: Regulatory authority should initiate training program on sustainability issues to educate supplier, customers and policy makers. Thus will help industrial managers and practitioners to realize the importance of sustainability.

7. Conclusions, unique contribution and further research scope

SSCM practices are becoming popular business trend for sustainable development of industrial sector. Companies are trying to implement SSCM practices for business continuity (Chin et al., 2015). Hence, it is not an easy task to implement SSCM in traditional supply chains, because there are numerous barriers. Therefore, the present study attempts to propose a structural model to assess the interrelationships among such barriers which is more relevant to emerging economies since they faces multiple hurdles and are in the early stage of SSCM implementation. The motive behind proposing the structural model to analyze the barriers to SSCM implementation is that no study has yet been conducted on barriers to SSCM implementation in the leather processing industry using a grey DEMATEL approach. The findings revealed that there were nine barriers belong to *causal* group and eleven in the *effect* group. *Lack of awareness of local customers in green products*, *lack of commitment from top management, cost of sustainability and economic conditions, lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partners, absence of society pressure, lack of training and education about sustainability, information gap, and lack of cleaner technology* seemed to be the most important causal driving barriers to SSCM initiation in the studied supply chain. *Lack of reverse logistics practices* and *outdated machinery* seemed to be the most influential barriers. This means that other barriers can easily influence those barriers, and that the improvement of other barriers will directly influence them. Therefore, this study may help managers and planners identify the most influential SSCM implementation barriers. This highlights the steps necessary to eradicate them. The main contributions of this study can be summarised as follows.

➢ This study initially contributed existing literature by identifying 35 barriers to SSCM implementation and finally selected 20 barriers; nine of them belong to *causal* group and eleven in the *effect* group which was examined by the grey DEMATEL method. The

> causal barriers may act as crucial driving barriers for sustainable development in an emerging economy.

> ➤ This study is a unique one in the sense that no previous study has been conducted in the context of leather industry supply chains. The leather industry is a second most polluted industrial sector as well as export earners of Bangladesh and thus needs SSCM implementation.

> ➤ The proposed research framework is a unique application and decision makers can use as a benchmark in the context of Bangladesh.

It is noted that the grey-based DEMATEL approach is a very effective method for evaluating the contextual relationships among barriers in an imprecise environment. However, this method is largely depends on experts' feedback. Therefore, it is recommended that experts' feedback should be collected carefully. Another limitation is that we only consider twenty barriers to develop the SSCM implementing framework. Further, this research work was limited in the number of barriers it could analyze due to the complexity of the model.

Our expectation is that this research will be helpful to evaluate the contextual relationship among barriers to SSCM implementation in other industries, such as the clothing, footwear, and polymer, food processing, mining, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries of Bangladesh. All of these industries have harmful effects on environment and society. Other industrial sectors may need to consider greater numbers of relevant barriers in their analyses. In future, other multi-criteria decision-making tools, like Fuzzy-AHP, Fuzzy-VIKOR, Fuzzy-DEMATEL, ISM and TISM, could be used to evaluate the most influential barriers to the adoption of SSCM practices.

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List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of literature that has used a grey DEMATEL approach

Authors	Nature of the work	Application
(Bouzon et al., 2017)	Analysis of barriers to reverse logistics implementation under a multiple stakeholder perspective.	Multiple stakeholders' perspectives in a Brazilian context.
(Luthra et al., 2017)	Analysis of drivers of the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices.	Automotive company, Indian context.
(Rajesh and Ravi, 2017)	Analyzing drivers of risk in an electronic supply chain.	Indian electronic company.
(Shao et al., 2016)	Evaluation of barriers between environmentally-friendly products and consumers.	European automobile industry.
(Liang et al., 2016)	Identification and analysis of critical success factors for sustainable development.	Chinese biofuel industry
(Govindan et al., 2016)	Application to select third party logistics providers.	Iranian automotive industry
(Xia et al., 2015)	Examining internal barriers to a remanufacturing industry.	Automotive parts remanufacturer industry in China.
(Su et al., 2015)	Evaluating sustainable supply chain management performance.	Taiwanese electronic manufacturing focal firm.
(Rajesh and Ravi, 2015)	Modeling enablers of supply chain risk mitigation.	Indian electronics manufacturing company.
(Özdemır and Tüysüz, 2015)	Analyzing strategies of universities.	Turkish Universities.

Table 2: Research on SSCM and green practices

Authors	Nature of the contribution	Nature of the model/ methodology
(Gosling et al., 2017)	The role of supply chain leadership in the learning of sustainable practice	Integrated conceptual model
(Marcon et al., 2017)	Innovation and environmentally sustainable economy	Exploratory research model
(de Camargo Fiorini and Jabbour, 2017)	Impact of information system and sustainable supply chain towards sustainable society	A structured literature review
(Ahmadi et al., 2017)	Social sustainability assessment in supply chain	Best-worst method
(Kusi-Sarpong et al., 2016)	Green supply chain practice assessment in the Ghanaian mining industry	Fuzzy-DEMATEL and analytical network process (ANP)
(Bai et al., 2017)	Evaluating the implementation path for green information technology systems in the Ghanaian mining industry	Grey numbers with DEMATEL and the NK fitness landscapes model (NK model)
(Mathivathanan et al., 2017)	Evaluating SSCM practices in Indian automotive industry	DEMATEL
(Shi et al., 2017)	Measuring corporate sustainable development	Interdependent closed-loop hierarchical structure
(Mani et al., 2016)	Assessment of social sustainability in Indian manufacturing company	Semi-structured interview
(Egilmez et al., 2014)	Supply chain sustainability assessment in the US food processing sector.	The Economic Input-Output Life Cycle Assessment (EIO-LCA) and data envelopment analysis

Table 3: Value of Bangladesh's exported leather and leather products (million US$)

Category	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Leather	330.16	399.73	505.54	397.54
Leather products	99.36	161.62	240.09	249.16
Footwear	335.51	419.32	378.54	483.81
Total	765.03	980.67	1124.17	1130.51
Growth in Year	17.51%	28.19%	32.12%	.56%

Source: Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau

Table 4: Identification of major barriers to the adoption of sustainable supply chain management

Barrier	Description	Relevant literature
1. Information gap	Lack of knowledge about sustainability and environmentally relevant issues. Unwilling to implement green supply chain in manufacturing system.	Barve and Muduli (2013), Muduli et al. (2013).
2. Costs of sustainability and poor economic conditions	Lack of interest in investing money for sustainability, and economic conditions not as good as developed countries.	Nidumolu et at. (2009), Wang et al. (2015).
3. Absence of society pressure	Pressure from community, NGOs and environmental authorities is low.	Zhigang Wang et al. (2015), Govindan et al. (2014).
4. Lack of support and guidelines from regulatory authority/poor legislation	Absence of strong environmental legislation.	Nidumolu et al. (2009).
5. Non-adoption of cleaner technology	Unwilling to adopt pollution control & prevention technology.	Vachon and Klassen (2007), Nowosielski (2007).
6. Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partners	Supply chain partner have insufficient knowledge of sustainable manufacturing practices.	Li (2014), Tseng et al. (2013).
7. Less practice on reverse logistics	Absence of reverse logistics facility. *Reverse logistics* means the reuse or recycling of returned products for economic benefit.	Jack et al. (2010), Sarkis et al. (2010).
8. Capacity constraints	Less facility and capacity for sustainable manufacturing practices.	Mudgal et al. (2010), Muduli et al. (2013).
9. Lack of commitment from top management	Sustainable manufacturing practice in industry is ignored by top management.	Turker and Altuntas (2014).
10. Inadequate supply chain strategic planning	In leather processing factories, strong supply chain strategic planning does not exist.	Baumgartner and Korhonen (2010).
11. Lack of market demand	People are not conscious about green products, resulting in a lack of demand.	Lin et al. (2013).
12. Pressure for lower prices	In today's competitive market green products have higher prices and are therefore in less demand.	Khidir and Zailani (2009), Koho et al. (2011).
13. Lack of training and education on sustainability	Lack of knowledge about sustainable manufacturing practices. Insufficient programs arranged by environmental authorities.	Dubey and Gunasekaran (2015), Jabbour (2013a).

14. Lack of environmental requirements	Environmental management system incorporates operations and manages the entire environmental requirement.	Le Bourhis et al. (2013), Yuan et al. (2012).
15. Lack of sustainable communication technology	Inadequate application of e-ordering, companywide enterprise resource planning (ERP) and intelligent network system.	Sandhu et al. (2012).
16. Restrictive company policies towards product/process stewardship	Less control over minimizing environmental impact during the design, production or sale of products over their entire life cycle.	Mudgal (2010) .
17. Lack interest in sharing risks and rewards	Industries are not interested in sharing risks and rewards for adopting environmentally-friendly concepts.	(Shao et al., 2016)
18. Organizational boundaries	Lack of skilled staff, lack of experience, low financial resources or capital access, green issues have low priority in the leather industries of Bangladesh.	Lee et al. (2012), Sarkis (2012), Sarkis et al. (2011).
19. Poor supplier commitment	Lack of commitment between suppliers and customers. In leather industries, companies are often unwilling to exchange information.	Vachon and Klassen (2006), Hong et al. (2009).
20. Lack of awareness of local customers in green product	Local customers are not aware of green products.	Bhanot et al. (2015), Raci and Shankar (2005).
21. Unskilled human resources	Lack of quality worker and management personnel to implement sustainable manufacturing practice.	Parker et al. (2009), Hillary (2004), Nejati et al., (2017)
22. Lack of technical expertise	Inadequate knowledge to design a pollution-free product to implement sustainable manufacturing practice.	Revell and Rutherfoord (2003).
23. Lack of government support to adopt sustainable manufacturing practice.	Government regulations are not enough to adopt sustainable manufacturing practice.	Prakash and Barua (2015), Govindan et al. (2013).
24. Misalignment of short- and long-term strategic goals	Lack of consciousness to align short- and long-term strategies.	Cowan (2008), Walker and Jones (2012).
25. Uncertain benefits	Insignificant economic advantage, slow return on investment.	Mittal et al. (2013).
26. Resistance to change and adopting innovation	Less interest in adopting innovation.	Gaziulusoy et al. (2013).
27. Power shortages	Lack power supply during blackouts.	Bhanot et al. (2015)

28. Lack of funds for sustainable manufacturing practice	Bank and other financial institute offer fewer funds for green projects.	Kulatunga et al. (2013).
29. Low availability of credit	Less ability to get funds from bank and financial institute with low interest rate.	Bhanot et al. (2015), Kulatunga et al. (2013), Wang et al. (2015).
30. Lack of training courses and institutions to train specific personnel.	Lack of ability to train people for sustainable development in leather sector.	Govindan et al. (2014)
31. Less business-friendly policies	Absence of business-friendly policies	This study
32. Limited access to market information	The facility to access global market information is less.	(Technical Report, 2013).
33. Higher prices of imported processing chemicals for hides/skins	Price of imported chemicals is very high.	(Technical Report, 2013).
34. Outdated machinery in tanneries	Outdated machineries present in tannery industry.	This study
35. Absence of integrated policies	Policy maker does not consider integration of policies.	(Technical Report, 2013).

Table 5: Selection of common barriers with the help of experts and academic feedback

Barrier Category	Barrier	Identification Code
A. Environment	Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partner	(E1)
	Lack of environmental requirement	(E2)
	Lack of practice on reverse logistics	(E3)
	Lack of awareness of local customers in green product	(E4)
B. Technology	Lack of technical expertise	(T1)
	Resistance to change and adopt innovation	(T2)
	Lack of cleaner technology	(T3)
	Outdated machineries	(T4)
C. Knowledge & Support	Information gap	(KS1)
	Lack of commitment from top management	(KS2)
	Lack of training and education about sustainability	(KS3)
	Limited access to market information	(KS4)
D. Society	Lack of government support & guideline to adopt sustainable supply chain practices	(S1)
	Absence of society pressure	(S2)
	Lack demand & pressure for lower price	(S3)
	Less of business friendly policy	(S4)
E. Financial	Cost of sustainability & economic condition	(F1)
	Capacity constraints	(F2)
	Lack of funds for sustainable supply chain practices	(F3)
	Green power shortage	(F4)

Table 6: Average grey relation matrix for barriers to SSCM implementation

	E1	E2	E3	E4	T1	T2	T3	T4	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	S1	S2	S3	S4	F1	F2	F3	F4
E1	0	0.6	0.2	0.15	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.675	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.55	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	1	0.7	0.925	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.85	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3
E2	0.4	0	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.125	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1
	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.35	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.3
E3	0.2	0.1	0	0.2	0.2	0.475	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1
	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.75	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.3
E4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0	0.6	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.6	0.825	0.125	0.4	0.45	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2
	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.9	0.975	0.35	0.7	0.75	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5
T1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3
T2	0.2	0.1	0.55	0.2	0.2	0	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
	0.5	0.3	0.85	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3
T3	0.25	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.55	0.6	0	0.25	0.55	0.45	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.35	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.2
	0.55	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.85	0.9	0.1	0.55	0.85	0.75	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.65	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5
T4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1
	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.3
KS1	0.45	0.4	0.35	0.45	0.6	0.35	0.45	0.45	0	0.6	0.125	0.45	0.6	0.55	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6
	0.75	0.7	0.65	0.75	0.9	0.65	0.75	0.75	0.1	0.9	0.35	0.75	0.9	0.85	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9
KS2	0.6	0.4	0.55	0.6	0.4	0.35	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0.15	0.6	0.55	0.825	0.2	0.55	0.6	0.4	0.25	0.4
	0.9	0.7	0.85	0.9	0.7	0.65	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.975	0.5	0.85	0.9	0.7	0.55	0.7
KS3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.35	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.075	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.55	0.2
	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.65	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.25	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.85	0.5
KS4	0.6	0.25	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.45	0.1	0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.125	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.125
	0.9	0.55	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.75	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.35	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.35
S1	0.15	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.2	0	0.4	0.55	0.6	0.45	0.55	0.6	0.6
	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.85	0.9	0.75	0.85	0.9	0.9
S2	0.4	0.4	0.35	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.75	0.675	0.25	0.4	0.6	0	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.125
	0.7	0.7	0.65	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.95	0.925	0.55	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.35
S3	0.1	0.2	0.125	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.125	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.1
	0.3	0.5	0.35	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.35	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.3
S4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.7
F1	0.55	0.4	0.45	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.45	0.9	0.6	0.175	0.575	0.6	0.25	0.2	0.1	0	0.6	0.2	0.6
	0.85	0.7	0.75	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.75	1	0.9	0.45	0.825	0.9	0.55	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.9
F2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0	0.1	0.1
	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.3
F3	0.1	0.2	0.125	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0	0.4
	0.3	0.5	0.35	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.7
F4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0
	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.1

*E1 indicates the identification code of "Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partners", which is shown in **Table 5**. Another barrier is also shown in **Table 5** by identification code. The level of influence of SSCM practices barriers i over j is represented as the grey value $\left[\frac{\overline{\otimes}y_{ij}}{\underline{\otimes}y_{ij}} \right]$.

Table 7: Total relation matrix for barriers to SCCM implementation

	E1	E2	E3	E4	T1	T2	T3	T4	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	S1	S2	S3	S4	F1	F2	F3	F4
E1	0.110	0.160	0.135	0.123	0.180	0.114	0.202	0.166	0.206	0.182	0.128	0.142	0.185	0.183	0.109	0.087	0.169	0.145	0.117	0.091
E2	0.121	0.069	0.146	0.084	0.093	0.110	0.115	0.117	0.124	0.117	0.074	0.107	0.138	0.113	0.071	0.064	0.113	0.152	0.073	0.066
E3	0.103	0.081	0.082	0.101	0.108	0.115	0.135	0.156	0.145	0.137	0.084	0.110	0.119	0.116	0.074	0.065	0.115	0.152	0.076	0.068
E4	0.192	0.157	0.183	0.123	0.201	0.149	0.196	0.190	0.227	0.225	0.111	0.181	0.202	0.209	0.123	0.111	0.210	0.184	0.128	0.116
T1	0.151	0.092	0.113	0.128	0.097	0.095	0.128	0.125	0.158	0.150	0.112	0.107	0.150	0.165	0.092	0.074	0.146	0.120	0.099	0.076
T2	0.102	0.079	0.136	0.098	0.107	0.064	0.115	0.154	0.143	0.117	0.082	0.127	0.116	0.133	0.073	0.064	0.113	0.130	0.074	0.066
T3	0.144	0.126	0.151	0.174	0.182	0.157	0.132	0.161	0.206	0.185	0.132	0.170	0.183	0.172	0.114	0.092	0.195	0.169	0.159	0.109
T4	0.137	0.108	0.118	0.115	0.126	0.101	0.171	0.108	0.164	0.156	0.095	0.165	0.137	0.151	0.138	0.075	0.133	0.167	0.090	0.077
KS1	0.179	0.160	0.171	0.174	0.203	0.145	0.198	0.196	0.169	0.217	0.116	0.193	0.222	0.207	0.147	0.116	0.213	0.187	0.172	0.159
KS2	0.201	0.167	0.198	0.195	0.193	0.153	0.223	0.221	0.240	0.166	0.123	0.214	0.216	0.232	0.132	0.153	0.222	0.196	0.143	0.144
KS3	0.073	0.080	0.074	0.072	0.078	0.062	0.096	0.115	0.118	0.098	0.050	0.097	0.102	0.115	0.060	0.090	0.097	0.080	0.113	0.072
KS4	0.183	0.135	0.143	0.158	0.193	0.121	0.201	0.196	0.215	0.191	0.102	0.130	0.186	0.199	0.157	0.094	0.200	0.156	0.123	0.100
S1	0.141	0.174	0.190	0.146	0.195	0.128	0.204	0.187	0.217	0.205	0.153	0.165	0.154	0.187	0.156	0.153	0.192	0.198	0.171	0.157
S2	0.167	0.154	0.164	0.162	0.177	0.126	0.205	0.184	0.227	0.213	0.123	0.177	0.210	0.142	0.120	0.138	0.205	0.179	0.127	0.106
S3	0.080	0.086	0.084	0.091	0.098	0.067	0.102	0.094	0.112	0.124	0.076	0.138	0.108	0.092	0.056	0.060	0.104	0.138	0.101	0.061
S4	0.071	0.076	0.084	0.081	0.074	0.073	0.093	0.112	0.088	0.094	0.070	0.111	0.095	0.092	0.059	0.042	0.092	0.077	0.074	0.077
F1	0.192	0.162	0.185	0.191	0.208	0.154	0.216	0.201	0.248	0.221	0.124	0.202	0.224	0.184	0.129	0.104	0.155	0.210	0.136	0.160
F2	0.117	0.128	0.160	0.132	0.124	0.102	0.134	0.171	0.163	0.156	0.095	0.113	0.174	0.150	0.098	0.089	0.150	0.108	0.088	0.080
F3	0.079	0.087	0.083	0.090	0.099	0.066	0.092	0.091	0.113	0.094	0.100	0.142	0.147	0.104	0.101	0.095	0.104	0.087	0.063	0.097
F4	0.070	0.065	0.070	0.081	0.076	0.059	0.081	0.080	0.100	0.082	0.092	0.131	0.116	0.093	0.060	0.088	0.093	0.075	0.096	0.047

*E1 indicates the identification code of "Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partner" which is shown in **Table 5**. Another barrier is also shown in **Table 5** by identification code. Threshold value (mean + standard deviation) = 0.178.

Table 8: Cause-effect parameters for barriers to SCCM implementation

Barrier	R_i	C_j	$R_i + C_j$	$R_i - C_j$
E1	2.9344	2.6142	5.5486	0.3202
E2	2.0668	2.3437	4.4106	-0.2769
E3	2.1422	2.6699	4.8121	-0.5277
E4	3.4171	2.5175	5.9346	0.8996
T1	2.3769	2.8122	5.1892	-0.4353
T2	2.0938	2.1596	4.2534	-0.0657
T3	3.1116	3.0378	6.1494	0.0738
T4	2.5322	3.0257	5.5579	-0.4935
KS1	3.5438	3.3831	6.9270	0.1607
KS2	3.7315	3.1302	6.8617	0.6012
KS3	1.7430	2.0431	3.7861	-0.3001
KS4	3.1841	2.9222	6.1063	0.2618
S1	3.4718	3.1841	6.6559	0.2876
S2	3.3046	3.0390	6.3436	0.2656
S3	1.8730	2.0670	3.9400	-0.1941
S4	1.6322	1.8545	3.4866	-0.2223
F1	3.6071	3.0216	6.6287	0.5856
F2	2.5350	2.9101	5.4451	-0.3750
F3	1.9331	2.2249	4.1580	-0.2918
F4	1.6563	1.9300	3.5863	-0.2737

Table 9: Final evaluation of barriers with ranking

Rank	Barrier name and identification code	Rank	Cause group
1	Information gap (KS1)	1	Lack of awareness of local customers in green product (E4)
2	Lack of commitment from top management (KS2)	2	Lack of commitment from top management (KS2)
3	Lack of support and guideline from regulatory authority (S1)	3	Cost of sustainability & economic condition (F1)
4	Cost of sustainability & economic condition (F1)	4	Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partner (E1)
5	Absence of society pressure (S2)	5	Lack of support and guideline from regulatory authority (S1)
6	Lack of cleaner technology (T3)	6	Absence of society pressure (S2)
7	Lack of training and education about sustainability (KS4)	7	Lack of training and education about sustainability (KS4)
8	Lack of awareness of local customers in green product (E4)	8	Information gap (KS1)
9	Outdated machineries (T4)	9	Lack of cleaner technology (T3)
10	Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partner (E1)	Rank	**Effect Group**
		1	Resistance to change and adopt innovation (T2)
11	Capacity constraints (F2)	2	Lack demand & pressure for lower price (S3)
12	Lack of technical expertise (T1)	3	Less of business friendly policy (S4)
13	Lack of practice on reverse logistics (E3)	4	Green power shortage (F4)
14	Lack of environmental requirement (E2)	5	Lack of environmental requirement (E2)
15	Resistance to change and adopt innovation (T2)	6	Lack of funds for sustainable supply chain practices (F3)
16	Lack of funds for sustainable supply chain practices (F3)	7	Limited access to market information (KS3)
17	Lack demand & pressure for lower price (S3)	8	Capacity constraints (F2)
18	Limited access to market information (KS3)	9	Lack of technical expertise (T1
19	Green power shortage (F4)	10	Outdated machineries (T4)
20	Less of business friendly policy (S4)	11	Lack of practice on reverse logistics (E3)

Table 10: Weight given to four experts for sensitivity analysis

	Expert 1 (Supply chain executive)	Expert 2 (Production manager)	Expert 3 (Logistics executive)	Expert 4 (Leather technologist)
Scenario 1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Scenario 2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2
Scenario 3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
Scenario 4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4

Table 11: Ranking of cause–effect relationships among common barriers obtained from sensitivity analysis

Rank order	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3		Scenario 4	
	Barrier code	$r_i - c_j$	Barrier code	$r_i - c_j$	Barrier code	$r_i - c_j$	Barrier code	$r_i - c_j$
1	E4	0.888	E4	0.923	E4	0.916	E4	0.879
2	KS2	0.612	KS2	0.628	F1	0.589	F1	0.582
3	F1	0.569	F1	0.611	KS2	0.570	KS2	0.582
4	E1	0.302	E1	0.293	E1	0.329	E1	0.355
5	S1	0.290	S2	0.276	S1	0.308	S1	0.299
6	KS4	0.262	S1	0.264	S2	0.275	KS4	0.277
7	S2	0.258	KS4	0.239	KS4	0.273	S2	0.243
8	KS1	0.148	KS1	0.132	KS1	0.128	KS1	0.220
9	T3	0.071	T3	0.055	T3	0.089	T3	0.068
10	T2	-0.077	T2	-0.037	T2	-0.061	T2	-0.079
11	S3	-0.199	S3	-0.182	S4	-0.206	S3	-0.179
12	S4	-0.230	S4	-0.230	S3	-0.208	S4	-0.225
13	F4	-0.264	F4	-0.263	E2	-0.275	F3	-0.266
14	E2	-0.272	E2	-0.275	F4	-0.276	F4	-0.282
15	KS3	-0.276	KS3	-0.278	F3	-0.302	E2	-0.288
16	F3	-0.288	F3	-0.304	KS3	-0.344	KS3	-0.313
17	F2	-0.376	F2	-0.374	F2	-0.386	F2	-0.363
18	T1	-0.435	T1	-0.416	T1	-0.452	T1	-0.435
19	T4	-0.476	T4	-0.475	E3	-0.477	T4	-0.535
20	E3	-0.508	E3	-0.589	T4	-0.491	E3	-0.540

List of Figures

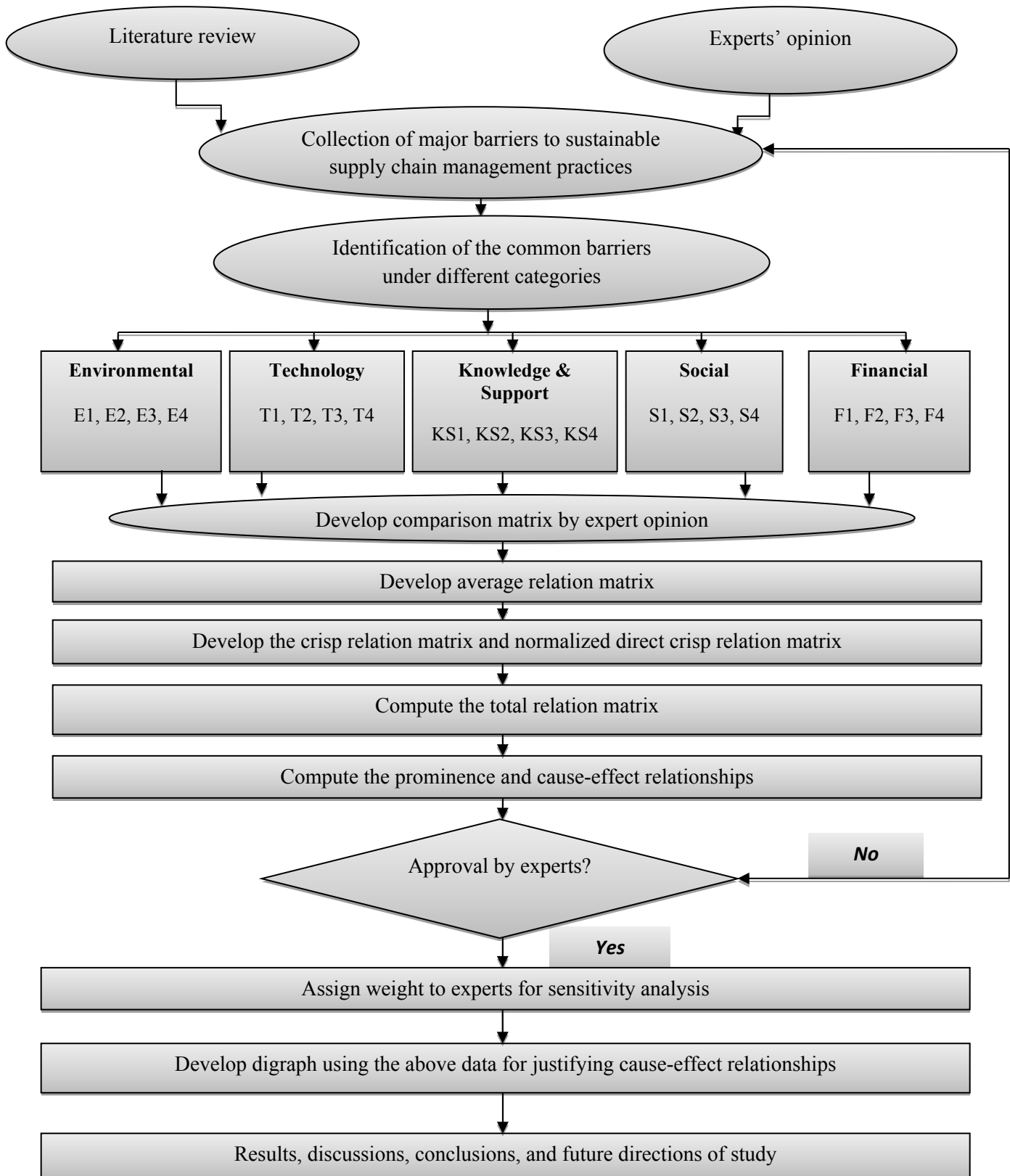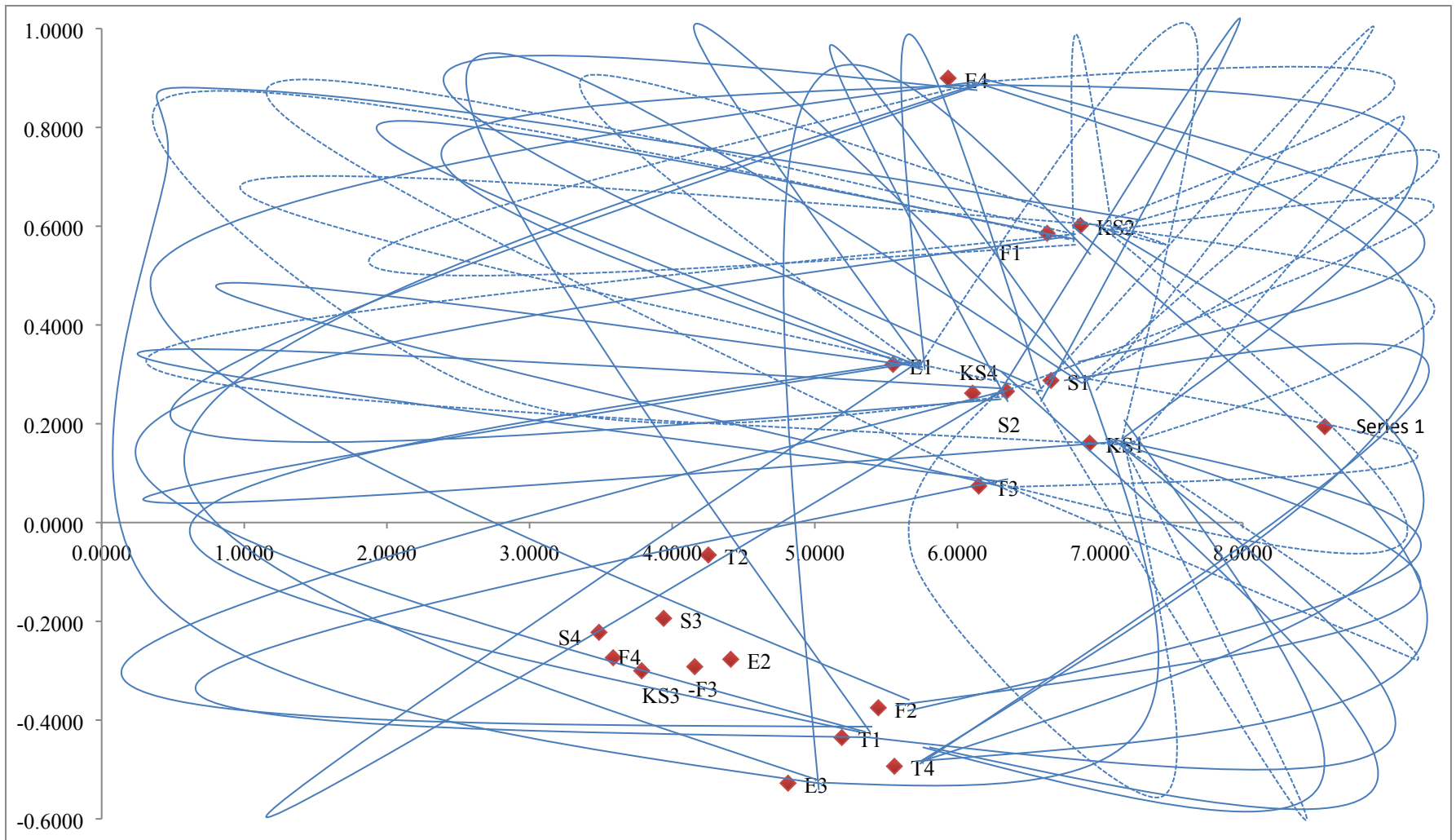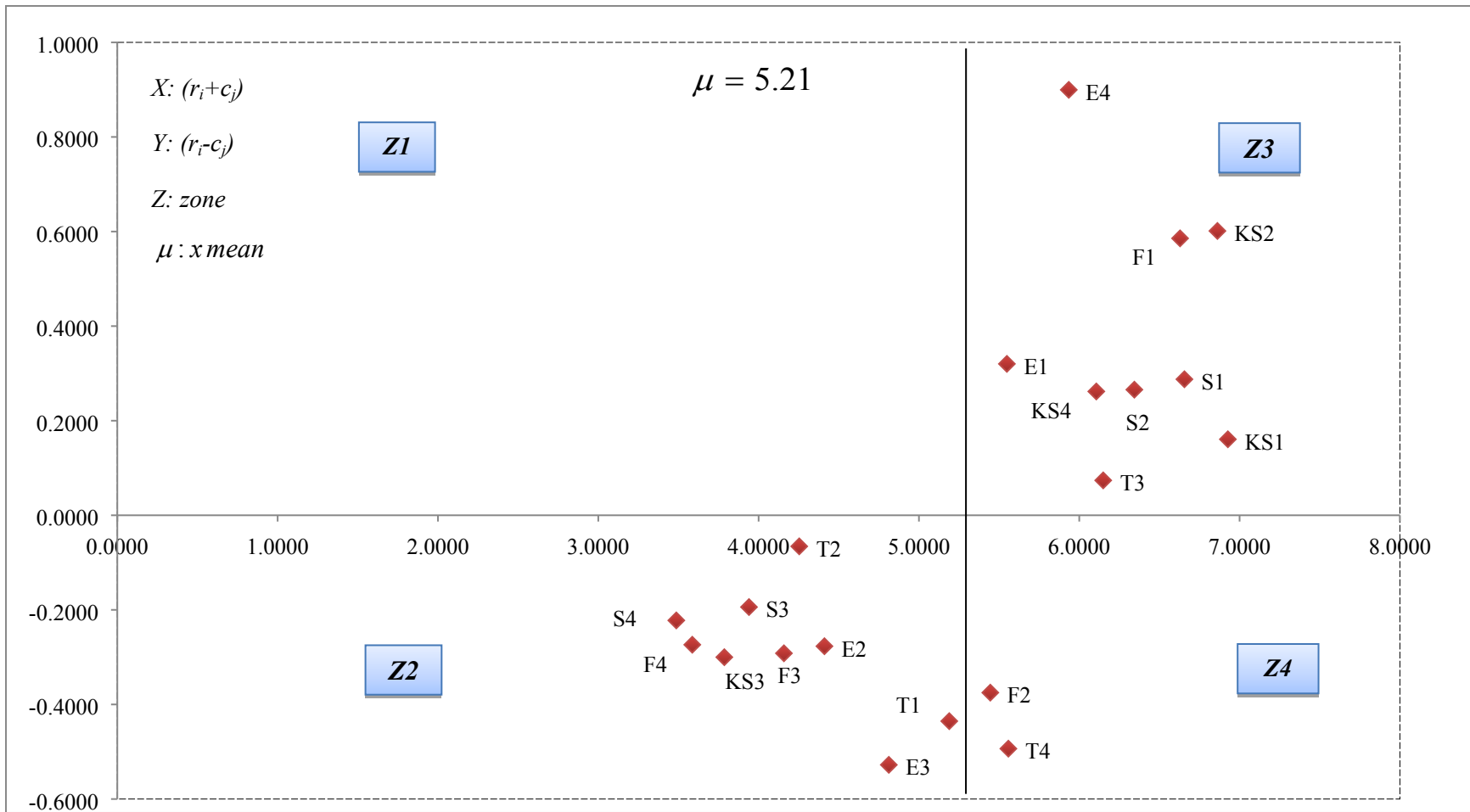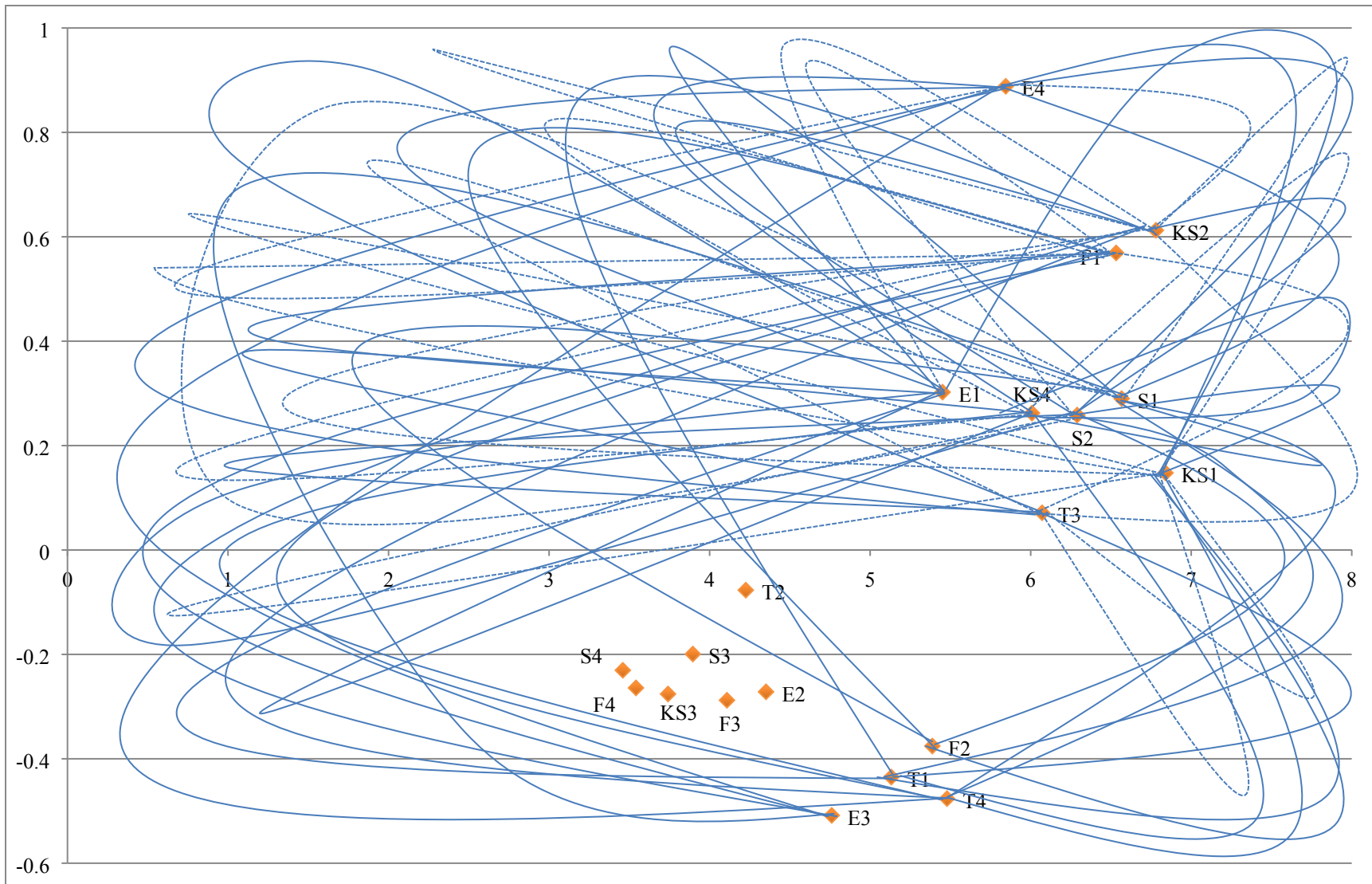**Fig. 1**. Conceptual framework for this research

49

Fig. 2: Digraph showing the causal relationships between the various barriers to implementing SSCM practices

Fig. 3: Barriers of sustainable supply chain management practices represented in zones

Fig. 4: Digraph obtained during sensitivity analysis showing causal relation among barriers of SSCM practices by giving highest weight to Expert 1

Annexure 1

Table A1: Grey relation matrix for barriers of SCCM implementation computed by Expert 1

	E1	E2	E3	E4	T1	T2	T3	T4	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	S1	S2	S3	S4	F1	F2	F3	F4
E1	0	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.5	1	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3
E2	0.4	0	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1
	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.3
E3	0.2	0.1	0	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1
	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.3
E4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2
	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	1	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5
T1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3
T2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3
T3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.2
	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5
T4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1
	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.3
KS1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6
	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9
KS2	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4
	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.9	0.7	1	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.7
KS3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2
	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.5
KS4	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.1	0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1
	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.3
S1	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
S2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	0	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1
	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.7	1	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.3
S3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.1
	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.3
S4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.7
F1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0.6	0.2	0.6
	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	1	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.9
F2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0	0.1	0.1
	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.3
F3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0	0.4
	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.7
F4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0
	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.1

*E1 indicates the identification code for "Lack of eco-literacy amongst supply chain partner" which is shown in **Table 5**. Another barrier is also shown in **Table 5** by identification code. The level of influence of practices barriers i over j is represented as the grey value $\left[\dfrac{\otimes y_{ij}}{\overline{\otimes} y_{ij}} \right]$.

Table A2: Crisp relation matrix for barriers to SCCM implementation

	E1	E2	E3	E4	T1	T2	T3	T4	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	S1	S2	S3	S4	F1	F2	F3	F4
E1	0	0.745	0.273	0.193	0.745	0.273	0.9	0.509	0.783	0.619	0.52	0.273	0.627	0.678	0.273	0.12	0.509	0.273	0.273	0.12
E2	0.549	0	0.782	0.129	0.129	0.549	0.293	0.301	0.293	0.295	0.173	0.301	0.549	0.295	0.129	0.129	0.301	0.782	0.129	0.129
E3	0.273	0.12	0	0.273	0.273	0.581	0.5	0.745	0.5	0.502	0.28	0.273	0.273	0.268	0.12	0.12	0.273	0.745	0.12	0.12
E4	0.745	0.509	0.627	0	0.745	0.509	0.558	0.509	0.733	0.868	0.159	0.509	0.568	0.736	0.273	0.273	0.745	0.509	0.273	0.273
T1	0.745	0.12	0.273	0.509	0	0.273	0.267	0.273	0.5	0.502	0.52	0.12	0.509	0.736	0.273	0.12	0.509	0.273	0.273	0.12
T2	0.273	0.12	0.686	0.273	0.273	0	0.267	0.745	0.5	0.268	0.28	0.509	0.273	0.502	0.12	0.12	0.273	0.509	0.12	0.12
T3	0.332	0.273	0.391	0.745	0.686	0.745	0	0.332	0.675	0.561	0.52	0.509	0.509	0.444	0.273	0.12	0.745	0.509	0.745	0.273
T4	0.509	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.733	0	0.5	0.502	0.28	0.745	0.273	0.502	0.745	0.12	0.273	0.745	0.12	0.12
KS1	0.568	0.509	0.45	0.568	0.745	0.45	0.558	0.568	0	0.736	0.159	0.568	0.745	0.678	0.509	0.273	0.745	0.509	0.745	0.745
KS2	0.745	0.509	0.686	0.745	0.509	0.45	0.733	0.745	0.733	0	0.197	0.745	0.582	0.868	0.273	0.686	0.745	0.509	0.332	0.509
KS3	0.12	0.273	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.267	0.509	0.442	0.268	0	0.273	0.273	0.502	0.087	0.509	0.273	0.12	0.686	0.273
KS4	0.745	0.332	0.273	0.509	0.745	0.273	0.733	0.745	0.733	0.561	0.122	0	0.509	0.736	0.745	0.155	0.745	0.273	0.273	0.155
S1	0.193	0.745	0.745	0.273	0.745	0.273	0.733	0.509	0.675	0.678	0.64	0.273	0	0.502	0.686	0.745	0.568	0.686	0.745	0.745
S2	0.509	0.509	0.45	0.509	0.509	0.273	0.733	0.509	0.827	0.785	0.34	0.509	0.745	0	0.273	0.627	0.745	0.509	0.273	0.155
S3	0.12	0.273	0.155	0.273	0.273	0.12	0.267	0.155	0.267	0.502	0.28	0.745	0.273	0.119	0	0.12	0.273	0.745	0.509	0.12
S4	0.12	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.12	0.273	0.267	0.509	0.118	0.268	0.28	0.509	0.273	0.268	0.12	0	0.273	0.12	0.273	0.385
F1	0.686	0.509	0.568	0.745	0.745	0.509	0.733	0.568	0.9	0.736	0.238	0.679	0.745	0.327	0.273	0.12	0	0.745	0.273	0.745
F2	0.273	0.509	0.745	0.509	0.273	0.273	0.267	0.745	0.5	0.502	0.28	0.12	0.745	0.502	0.273	0.273	0.509	0	0.12	0.12
F3	0.12	0.273	0.155	0.273	0.273	0.12	0.118	0.12	0.267	0.119	0.52	0.745	0.745	0.268	0.509	0.509	0.273	0.12	0	0.509
F4	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.273	0.12	0.12	0.118	0.12	0.267	0.119	0.52	0.745	0.509	0.268	0.12	0.509	0.273	0.12	0.509	0

Note: Codes are given in Table 5.

Table A3: Normalized direct crisp relation matrix for barriers to SCCM implementation

	E1	E2	E3	E4	T1	T2	T3	T4	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	S1	S2	S3	S4	F1	F2	F3	F4
E1	0.000	0.066	0.024	0.017	0.066	0.024	0.080	0.045	0.069	0.055	0.046	0.024	0.055	0.060	0.024	0.011	0.045	0.024	0.024	0.011
E2	0.049	0.000	0.069	0.011	0.011	0.049	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.026	0.015	0.027	0.049	0.026	0.011	0.011	0.027	0.069	0.011	0.011
E3	0.024	0.011	0.000	0.024	0.024	0.051	0.044	0.066	0.044	0.044	0.025	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.011	0.011	0.024	0.066	0.011	0.011
E4	0.066	0.045	0.055	0.000	0.066	0.045	0.049	0.045	0.065	0.077	0.014	0.045	0.050	0.065	0.024	0.024	0.066	0.045	0.024	0.024
T1	0.066	0.011	0.024	0.045	0.000	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.044	0.044	0.046	0.011	0.045	0.065	0.024	0.011	0.045	0.024	0.024	0.011
T2	0.024	0.011	0.061	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.024	0.066	0.044	0.024	0.025	0.045	0.024	0.044	0.011	0.011	0.024	0.045	0.011	0.011
T3	0.029	0.024	0.035	0.066	0.061	0.066	0.000	0.029	0.060	0.050	0.046	0.045	0.045	0.039	0.024	0.011	0.066	0.045	0.066	0.024
T4	0.045	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.065	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.025	0.066	0.024	0.044	0.066	0.011	0.024	0.066	0.011	0.011
KS1	0.050	0.045	0.040	0.050	0.066	0.040	0.049	0.050	0.000	0.065	0.014	0.050	0.066	0.060	0.045	0.024	0.066	0.045	0.066	0.066
KS2	0.066	0.045	0.061	0.066	0.045	0.040	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.000	0.017	0.066	0.051	0.077	0.024	0.061	0.066	0.045	0.029	0.045
KS3	0.011	0.024	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.024	0.045	0.039	0.024	0.000	0.024	0.024	0.044	0.008	0.045	0.024	0.011	0.061	0.024
KS4	0.066	0.029	0.024	0.045	0.066	0.024	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.050	0.011	0.000	0.045	0.065	0.066	0.014	0.066	0.024	0.024	0.014
S1	0.017	0.066	0.066	0.024	0.066	0.024	0.065	0.045	0.060	0.060	0.057	0.024	0.000	0.044	0.061	0.066	0.050	0.061	0.066	0.066
S2	0.045	0.045	0.040	0.045	0.045	0.024	0.065	0.045	0.073	0.069	0.030	0.045	0.066	0.000	0.024	0.055	0.066	0.045	0.024	0.014
S3	0.011	0.024	0.014	0.024	0.024	0.011	0.024	0.014	0.024	0.044	0.025	0.066	0.024	0.011	0.000	0.011	0.024	0.066	0.045	0.011
S4	0.011	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.011	0.024	0.024	0.045	0.010	0.024	0.025	0.045	0.024	0.024	0.011	0.000	0.024	0.011	0.024	0.034
F1	0.061	0.045	0.050	0.066	0.066	0.045	0.065	0.050	0.080	0.065	0.021	0.060	0.066	0.029	0.024	0.011	0.000	0.066	0.024	0.066
F2	0.024	0.045	0.066	0.045	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.066	0.044	0.044	0.025	0.011	0.066	0.044	0.024	0.024	0.045	0.000	0.011	0.011
F3	0.011	0.024	0.014	0.024	0.024	0.011	0.010	0.011	0.024	0.011	0.046	0.066	0.066	0.024	0.045	0.045	0.024	0.011	0.000	0.045
F4	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.024	0.011	0.011	0.010	0.011	0.024	0.011	0.046	0.066	0.045	0.024	0.011	0.045	0.024	0.011	0.045	0.000

Note: Codes are given in Table 5.

Research Highlight

- We identify barriers to sustainable supply chain management (SSCM) practices in the context of leather industry.
- We employ a blended grey-based DEMATEL methodology to investigate the interaction among identified barriers.
- 'Lack of awareness of local customers in green products' is found as topped causal barriers.
- 'Lack of reverse logistics practices' is found as most influenced barrier.
- We perform a sensitivity analysis to justify the priority ranking.