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How Resilient is Our Supply Chain in the Context of COVID-19? – An Emerging Research Area in Supply Chain

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ABSTRACT

Resilience has received a growing importance since its introduction to supply chain literature nearly two decades earlier. Supply chain resilience is the adaptive capability of a supply chain to prepare for and/or respond to disruptions, to make a timely and cost effective recovery, and therefore progress to a post-disruption state of operations – ideally, a better state than prior to the disruption. Ample studies (e.g. empirical, mathematical or theoretical studies) have been conducted to understand the how firms and its supply chain can build resilience in the context of unexpected event (e.g. Tsunami, earthquake, fire, hurricane, etc.). For example – collaboration, redundancy, flexibility, agility, social capital, etc. are well-known antecedents of building supply chain resilience. One of the common trends of supply chain resilience research is that it always focuses on unexpected event that affects either buyer or supplier. As unexpected event is concentrated on a particular geographical location, its negative effect has always been felt on part of supply chain i.e. either on demand side or on supply side. Supply chain researchers never ever discuss how firms and its supply chain partners can built its resilience capability in the context of an event that impact both demand and supply side of a supply chain simultaneously. Such a rare event is COVID-19. COID-19 is a pandemic that negatively influences all the firms and its supply chain globally. As a result, it becomes an important research question for academics and practitioners to investigate to what extent our existing practice of building supply chain resilience is valid in the context of an event that affects the entire supply chain. In this keynote presentation, I will focus on this research question.

Keywords: Resilience, Supply chain, COVID-19.