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ANALYSIS OF THE WAREHOUSE FUNCTIONS IN ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY WITHIN THE COMPANY

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Abstract

The research revolves around the functions of the warehouse and how it can improve productivity within the company. In order to accomplish such goals, one needs to make sure that the warehouse is properly managed and up to date. This research started on the basis of fixing the problem within the warehouse, the problem being that stocks are often not managed adequately which bring down the efficiency within the warehouse eventually decreasing the productivity in the company itself. In order to overcome this problem, it is important to look into the functions of the warehouse and improve them one by one. The main functions being, storing products, managing them properly, and protective packaging and transportation. There are many other functions of the warehouse but the research focuses more on these three, since they are the most common and basic ones. Then, the research discusses the importance of the warehouse within supply chain, realizing it is such an important asset not only to the supply chain sector but to companies as well. Finally, the research end with the topic of how technology can affect the warehouse. There are various technologies that can boost efficiency and help with numerous functions of the warehouse.



Introduction

In a growing industry, an effective warehouse is crucial to the effective execution of any logistics-related sector. Warehousing facilitates on-time output and effective distribution, resulting in improved worker efficiency and higher customer loyalty. It also assists in the reduction of mistakes and damage during the delivery process. Running an effective warehouse is valuable to your company. It can save funds by being cost efficient, minimize time by making the optimum use of racking facilities and floor space, and keep consumers happy by delivering a dependable first-class procedure. Due to current situation, a lot of individuals buy their groceries in bulk. To make sure the store doesn't run out of any item they would need to constantly refill their equipment's. So the warehouse would need to generate more in order to satisfy its clients.

As explained by Becky Partida, warehouse inefficiency is a global problem which everyone faces at some point, she further on explains how an individual can improve efficiency through the functions of the warehouse and updating the inventory. (Partida, 2012) The article doesn't go in much detail which is why this study is vital for the supply chain sector. Warehouse doesn't only generate productivity but profit as well and it makes sure that you satisfy all your customers. Many individuals have always been curious and unclear on how a storage unit is properly managed and how it can benefit its company. Hopefully this project will answer all your questions and educates everyone more on the importance of warehouse in supply chain.

Method

Quantitative and qualitative approach was followed. Both the data types are different from one another but have their advantages and disadvantages. There are various ways to collect data, the most common ones include interview, questionnaire, relevant documents and through observations. For this research paper, only two types of data collection techniques were used, questionnaire and relevant documents. Questionnaires will be distributed randomly to all sorts of individuals to get a different feedback and perspective to the research questions. There are several advantages for using questionnaire, them being: inexpensive, respondent anonymity is secured, and the subject is covered in all regions, and data can be easily collected. A descriptive questionnaire was chosen to identify the user's outlook and knowledge on warehouses and to specify their own preferences. The design was selected to meet the objectives of the study, specifically to determine the knowledge and views of the warehouse functions and how it can be

improved for higher productivity. Relevant documents include several articles and blogs which contain mass amount of knowledge and is very valuable to this research paper. Data collection is very important for any project since it makes sure that the reliability of the research is sustained, it reduces any probability of errors, saves a lot of money and time and it promotes the need for a new concept, transition, or creativity.

Results

Primary data analysis

The questionnaire was divided into three parts, and was interpreted in a way to answer all the research objectives. The first objective is to identify the functions of the warehouse in relative to the productive. The data that has been collected shows that all participants were familiar with what a warehouse is and its basic functions but did not know about the affects it had in particular. The functions of the warehouse include storage of goods, movement of products, information management and protection of the products and if it's all done adequately the warehouse is managed productively. The data shows that the basic requirements to increase productivity includes good communication between employees, using the space within the storage effectively and through the use of technology one can easily enhance and optimize their warehouse effectively.

The second objective that is analyzed in the questionnaire is to understand the importance of warehouse within supply chain. Most of the participants specified that warehouse is an important asset to the supply chains sector that impacts the company through delivering goods to the consumers on time and in good conditions. The data that is collected shows that warehouses isn't just an important asset to the supply chain sector but also increases the productivity of the company and improves profit. Profit is increased through meeting the demands of the customers, which is done through the use of the warehouses.

And lastly, the final objective that was discussed within the questionnaire is all about technology and how it helps run the warehouse. The results show that the warehouse indeed does benefit from investing in new technology and can be properly managed through using them. Technology helps the warehouse through maintaining its stocks much properly and helping it be more organized. The data implies that through the use of technology, there are much less errors within

the warehouse which automatically increases the productivity within the warehouse and the company.

Secondary data analysis

I. The functions of the warehouse relative to productivity

Warehouse productivity refers to a set of measurement that executives will examine in order to keep track of how well their warehouse operations are performing. In warehouses, production facilities, and distribution centers, inventory control has a significant impact on productivity. An inefficient facility leads to mistakes and delays, weakening client loyalty and making it simpler for your competitors to steal your customers.

The major purpose of a warehouse, rather unsurprisingly, is storage. Companies that employ a warehouse may promptly store excess merchandise not needed. This increases efficiency and customer service companies as this stock may be provided by your customers if necessary. After a client order your goods, there is no need to wait for delivery time. The stock in a warehouse may also provide protection for your goods, as the warehouse keeps stringent temperature, moisture and other key storage standards. Samantha Higgins explains that when it comes to keeping goods, there are five crucial aspects to consider. They are: a secure site, a clean environment, enough ventilation, additional equipment for the protection of fragile items, and finally, correct positioning of each item. Long-term retail performance depends on inventory storage. If you don't take adequate care of your goods, it might be lost, stolen, or destroyed, costing you money that might be spent on other vital company expenses.

The next function that is very critical for the productivity within the warehouse is the management of the stored stock. A warehouse must properly manage its stocks and have full control of them in order to enhance efficiency. Stock management refers to how a warehouse's stock movements are organized. It is extremely vital for a company's competitiveness. It must be mainly concerned with maintaining a suitable stock level in the warehouse in order to successfully satisfy client demand at the lowest possible cost to the organization. The best strategies for controlling your warehouse stock, according to Adam Uzailko, are to designate a warehouse leader, manage the warehouse architecture, build a procedure, and deploy system to

run the stock levels much more smoothly. Adam Uzialko suggests to use warehouse inventory management software to smoothly manage your stocks without going through much trouble. An inventory management system for warehouses is a vital tool for almost every organization that manages stocks. It helps you to keep control of lots of things, restock products quickly when they run out, and ensure that you never have too many or too few on hand. All of this boosts your profits and builds your consumer connections by guaranteeing you can deliver what they want when customers want it.

The last function which the research will cover is protective packaging and transportation.

Packaging's primary function is to protect goods throughout transportation, delivery, and maintenance. In warehouses, forklift accidents, product slips off carts, and packages disruption are all typical incidents. Packaging influences, a variety of areas of your supply chain, such as the storage, access and movement of items throughout business. Income growth and cost savings may be directly related to how your items are packaged and shipped. Packaging efficiency in the supply chain requires far more than merely delivering a product to the customer in a visually pleasing container or package. Packaging of the product has an influence on the whole supply chain. Efficient packing materials keep your inventory secure while decreasing packing costs and improving the efficacy of the end-to-end production process.

II. Importance of the warehouse

Warehouse management is important in the supply chain because it allows for stock distribution, organizing, and cross-docking operations that help satisfy the demands of the market. Clients hardly ever see warehouses throughout the purchasing process, but everything they purchase passes through the process and contributes to their overall shopping experiences. International trade and ecommerce take up a lot of space within the warehouse and is a basic necessity in today's lives which further on emphasizes the importance of warehouses. A warehouse is a vast, open area which is used for storing or accumulating commodities. Time utility is created by storing products throughout the year and releasing them when they are needed. Despite the fact that it is mostly used to store items, warehousing is an important part of the logistics system. Today's warehouses have evolved into a new breed of fulfillment centers that are selected based on location to give ecommerce firms with the most sites at the lowest transportation costs. The reason why warehouses are so vital within supply chain is because they keep up a sustainable

inventory control, well-organized collection, appropriate packing, quicker delivery, maintenance of costs and an improved user experience. The function of the warehouse has evolved considerably in recent decades. Lately businesses have altered their thinking and began to regard warehouse operation as a significant profitable center with long-term advantages, assuring and maintaining the main business aspect – customer retention and loyalty to the firm and its customers.

III. IT within the warehouse

Since various labor-saving technologies have either made labor more efficient or eliminated it entirely, today's warehouses require fewer operatives and, as a result, fewer line supervisors. In the previous two decades, warehouse management systems have come a long way. They've made numerous warehouse chores speedier for workers and developed efficiencies to lessen labor-intensiveness in the process. Advanced technologies even eliminate data entering entirely, allowing the operator to focus completely on the choosing process. Other aspects of warehouse operations, such as pickup, put-away, and dispatch, have seen a similar influence from scanning technology. (Sunol, 2021) The great majority of paper forms and documentation have been eliminated from the warehouse environment thanks to WMS software, scanning technologies, and other IT technologies. Advanced analytics support operations in identifying and correcting process flaws; inventory management software assists businesses in optimizing stock levels, while increases productivity within the warehouse and the company.

Conclusion

Through all the data that has been gathered, the researcher has come to a conclusion that warehouses are for sure an important requirement within not just supply chain but in general and has many function other than just storing products for the company. One needs to properly manage the warehouse through using the latest technology so the productivity can be easily obtained and remain constant. For this to take place the company must invest in new technology and make sure to keep up with the trends. Other than technology, communication is the most important asset to obtain productivity. Employees receive clear and concrete instructions as a result of effective communication, allowing them to operate in accordance with what is expected

of them. Increased responsibility leads to increased workplace productivity. No one will feel pushed to improve if there is no responsibility inside the warehouse. And lastly, the statement of research problem was that the stocks are improperly managed which is why the productivity within the company decreases. To overcome the problem, the company must provide technology for effective inventory control and stock management. This could use up the budget but will be beneficial for the long run and increase the productivity within not just the warehouse but also the company.

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