

Study of Effectiveness of CRM Solutions in Increasing the Efficiency of Supply Chain with Special Reference to Indian Auto-component Industries.

THESIS

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by
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Under the Supervision of
Prof. Anil Keskar



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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled Study of Effectiveness of CRM Solutions in Increasing the Efficiency of Supply Chain with Special Reference to Indian Auto-component Industries.

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Abstract

Supply chain management is a major issue in auto-component industry. A Indian firm realize the importance of creating an integrated relationship with their supplier and customer. Managing the supply chain has become a way of improving competitiveness by reducing uncertainty and enhancing customer service. Our research analyze various issues important to supply chain management in auto-component industry and provide broader awareness of supply chain principle and concept. Customer service management is the supply chain management process that represent the firm's face to the customer. The process is the key point of contact for administering product and service agreement (P A) developed by customer team as a part of the customer relationship management process. The goal is to provide a single source of customer information, such as product availability, shipping date and order status. Customer service management requires a real-time system to respond to customer inquiries and facilitate order placement. In this Research, we describe the customer service management process in detail to demonstrate how it can be implemented and managed in auto-component industry. To do this, we detail the activities of each strategic and operational sub-process; evaluate the interface with the business function, the other even supply chain management process; and describe examples of successful implementation. So far the focus of attention has been on the organization itself and on organization regulator and the central organization. There is another factor, the customer, and bringing a change of scene, the service which organization offer customer. Consistently with our theme, however, that CRM law must align itself with modern CRM practice, the customer play many role and the service which organization provide are paired with a broad brush. The main theme begins by filling in some of the detail about the customer of organization and modern CRM service. In this context it give attention to how the relationship between organization and their customer may be characterized as a matter of law. Internet business-to-business sale will reach new height in coming year; business-to-consumer sale will reach \$100 billion. E-business today have reached a point where they are trying to move beyond a cursory view of their customer to engaging in rich customer relationship. With the above context in mind it has become very important for auto-component organisations to Study of Effectiveness of CRM Solutions in Increasing the Efficiency of Supply Chain. This is the focus of this research.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- 1.CRM- Customer Relationship Management.
- 2.SRM- Supplier Relationship Management.
- 3.ERP- Enterprise Resource Planning

Chapter One: Introduction

Effective Customer Relationship Management strategy require that an organization provide customer value that is superior to that of the competition. To offer superior delivered value, marketing should directly influence three core business processes: product development management (PDM), supply chain management (SCM) and customer relationship management (CRM). The goal of the CRM process is to create solutions that customer need and want. CRM process comprise the acquisition of physical and informational input and the efficiency and effectiveness of transforming the input into customer solutions.

The objective of the CRM process are to shape customer's perception of the organization and its product through identifying customer, creating customer knowledge and building committed customer relationship. In essence, CRM is a business strategy that attempt to ensure every customer interaction (whether for sale or service) is appropriate, relevant, and consistent. CRM is a core business strategy for managing and optimizing all customer interaction across an organization's traditional and electronic interface.

CRM can be used to gain clearer insight and more intimate understanding of customer's buying behaviour, thus helping to build an effective competitive advantage. CRM is driven by three factors: 1) consumer empowered by information, technology, choice, globalization and deregulation; 2) increased competition; and 3) the internet and e-business, which facilitate the emergence of new distribution channels and enhance sales and marketing as well as service effectiveness and efficiency. It must be remembered that effective CRM is more than a software solution; it is about how customer information is used to create an ongoing relationship with the customer. To help achieve that outcome, different relationship approaches, and perhaps even

different CRM software, might be needed for the different type of customer relationship found in the business-to-business (B2B), business-to-consumer (B2C) or business-to-business-to-consumer (B2B2C) market.

The producer needs information on its customer's territory, business model, product preference and end customer characteristics. Different markets and customer types often require different kinds of relationships. Different customers want and expect different customer information and customer contact strategies. Information from these personalized contact points can be linked to statistical and reporting software tools when the data are captured, ideally in real time.

1.1 Objectives of the Research

The purpose of this research is

1. To find if the Autocomponent Industry is really ready to take on the CRM hype in terms of awareness of what the IT solutions have on offer to offer?
2. To find factors that will enhance the effective implementation of Business solution in Supply Chain.

Supply chain management is the ratio of using the Web and other information technologies to coordinate and track of materials through a business supply network. The simultaneous goal of supply chain management is to quickly meet customer demands by, for instance, fulfilling their orders in a timely fashion and offering them a satisfactory service and to minimize cost by reducing inventory and making supply chain efficiently.

In an age of increasing and large work of business relations in the global economy, utilities have become particularly complex, making them increasingly difficult for individual firms to control. The proliferation of Internet business relations, in the form of extranet and online business-to-business exchange, made utilities management both challenging and technically feasible. Utilities management was thus a quickly emerging, if still immature, element of business-to-business commerce in the late 1990 and early 2000.

Internet management of business utilities has coordinated all business partners in the utilities over Internet network and given all partners an up-to-the-minute overview of all available inventory. Technically, utilities management "Web-enabled" existing enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, which included everything from product catalog to order file to inventory database. Companies took their back-end database and other systems and integrated them into a Web portal hardwired through utilities network. In this way, companies can find all essential information available through utilities network. Most importantly, they can tailor all online activities through the system including the quantity and restriction of articles through the utilities network. In this way, utilities can log onto their Web site and determine exactly how many online orders to the factory, and the company is aware of exactly what they need to complete the order in the most efficient fashion.

Utilities management systems can take many forms. The most basic route is to simply coordinate existing database over utilities network using extranet. More recently, however, are the quality of a new breed of providers that specialize in software and systems management geared specifically toward utilities management. The company, which has a name Barbara, California-based utilities solution Inc., one of the most

prominent name in the field, implicitly contrast with companies to receive their inventory data and organisational information for optimal management a network.

The layers of potentially useful information are many. By implementing comprehensive databases of companies and integrating them into the supply chain management system, companies have the opportunity to cut out almost every corner. For instance, by detailing all the companies that go into a product, firms can monitor each individual company to determine optimal production and pricing levels, determine which companies are moving below break-even, and coordinate their inter-organizational links to bring them into equilibrium at the target level of efficiency. Furthermore, the saving an order through their operation, a, for instance, firms that have fully cut down inventory and are entering war hours are a toxic company.

Supply chain management, in addition, provides all companies connected in a supply network with the target level of transaction. That is, all orders and requests are readily available to all connected parties, which not only facilitates the transaction process by providing all companies with information, but also increases accountability, as all companies are made aware of each movement through the supply chain and are not shortcoming. In this way, businesses are forced to be more honest, and there is little room for laziness or skimming off the top.

There was a definitive logic to building supply chain management systems as well. By the mid-2000s, e-commerce was expected to reach over \$6.8 trillion, and there was concern that existing supply chains would be unable to accommodate such volume. In order to fully take advantage of e-commerce opportunities, businesses were forced to upgrade their internal and external systems architecture to keep their supply chains in a world with e-commerce as a whole.

While companies work on their ability to take orders online, order fulfillment is a great deal to be considered. The conversion of e-commerce adds a further opportunity at a dual channel as well. In general, order fulfillment is more difficult to project, companies are hard to read to order adequate quality far in advance.

One of the barriers to quality channel management is that, for the system to live up to its potential, all connected parties need to operate on a common platform. The investment into a new system is substantial enough, and because more complex when all layers need to coordinate the investment and convert their existing system to compatibility with the new platform.

A number of dangers lurk in adopting quality channel management. For instance, companies may be reluctant to align themselves too closely to any particular firm if it means losing off their option to host quality elsewhere. In getting an efficient and worthwhile quality channel management system all for a major investment, companies need to be sure that the firm with whom they establish a relationship will prove compatible rather than over the long term. Realistically, companies may be uneasy about tying their own strategy too closely to the efforts of other companies in such an arrangement could indeed threaten the firm's autonomy and limit their ability to shift direction should the need arise. But in general, one should be wary of overextending the quality channel management relationship with the firm that also acts as a competitor in other fields or that may one day become a competitor. Having intimate company details could give a competitor an unfair advantage.

The research explores the relationship of IT and Customer Relationship Management from five distinct viewpoints: quality for the end customer; the view of the personalization of the relationship between the customer and the enterprise; the definition of service quality in electronic service delivery systems; the transformation of CRM from a value chain to a supply

change due to supply chain integration introduced through internet; the management of quality information; and the management of quality in internet and customer service provision. The standpoint it assumes for IT is that of a total entrepreneurial strategy spanning both intra- and inter-organizational business and technology aspects.

Supply chain management (SCM) is the overview of material, information, and financial flows moving in a row from supplier to manufacturer to wholesaler to retailer to consumer. Supply chain management involves coordinating and integrating these flows both within and among companies. It is said that the ultimate goal of any effective supply chain management is to reduce inventory (with the assumption that products are available when needed). A solution for a successful supply chain management, especially at the software level with Web interfaces, is coming with Web-based applications provided by a provider who provides part or all of the SCM services for companies who rent their services.

Supply chain management flows can be divided into three main flows:

- The product flow
- The information flow
- The financial flow

The product flow includes the movement of goods from a supplier to a consumer, as well as any consumer's return or return. The information flow involves transmitting orders and updating the status of delivery. The financial flow consists of credit terms, payment schedules, and management and title ownership arrangements.

There are two main types of SCM software: planning applications and execution applications. Planning applications use advanced algorithms to determine the best way to fill an

order. Execution allocation tracks the physical status of goods, the management of materials, and financial information involving all parties.

Modern Material Requirements Planning (MRP) is based on a data model that supports the sharing of data both in input and output transactions (this includes direct and indirect transactions, and includes key users, manufacturer, and end user of a facility). This hard data may reside in distributed databases, or data warehouses, at several different sites and companies.

By sharing this data "upstream" (with a company's users) and "downstream" (with a company's clients), Manufacturers have the potential to improve the time-to-market of products, reduce costs, and allow all parties in the supply chain to better manage uncertainty and plan for the future. In today's supply chain world, companies are required to focus on developing the necessary capabilities to address key business issues. Getting products from the vendor to the shelf to fulfill consumer demand has been identified as one of the critical business issues. To address this issue, organizations must concentrate on building a flow management capability. A key initiative to support this capability, companies need to optimize their distribution network to enable merchandise flow. This optimized distribution network must also support key integration associated with the new merchandise flow strategies. The optimized distribution network must support product assortment, order ratios, replenishment methods, replenishment quantities, in-store inventory, and new store formats that will require store operating at much lower inventory levels than today.

A preliminary analysis of existing supply chain Operating Model indicates that there are significant opportunities to rationalize current distribution network by exploring new flow optimization. The alternatives are driven by many factors. The following are high level attributes and the issues that must be addressed with a high of them.

1.1.1 Customer Demands

Customers have raised their expectations for value-added services and have heightened demand for on-time performance. On-time performance is now a demand and competitors are raising transportation services to differentiate themselves. Demand and reliability are becoming a new commodity.

1.1.2 Cost Issues

High costs within the industry are driving players to focus on labor productivity and capital investment. Industry players are focusing on the cost of assets, infrastructure and technology. Both require large capital outlay. Customers are becoming more aware of rising and demanding flexible pricing options. There is a scarcity in many traffic lanes that is impacting pricing structures.

1.1.3 Consolidation/Partnering

Transportation service providers are consolidating to better position themselves in the market place, gaining an inner advantage in partnering on many dimensions. Partnerships are occurring between modes, between warehouses, and between carriers and transportation service providers. A rapid growth of intermodal shipping has resulted in demand for coordination and sharing of information between omnimodal transportation modes.

1.1.4 Globalisation

A flexible set of review offerings and corresponding business ratios are required to meet a diverse and dynamic set of international customer and government requirements. Transportation facilities vary significantly by country and are maturing at different rates. Competition is also targeting the international market as a key growth opportunity.

1.1.5 Technology

Technology is being used as a derived value-added marketing tool. Many factors are laying into this new information age. The United States is a country in transition withing from the once dominant manufacturer of the world, to the new war house for data and information.

The growth of international trade will require greater automation capabilities as this global commerce age takes hold. Although the usage of DI with high and return is increasing daily, time will eventually "weed out" the complex protocols in favor of web-based portals. The platform will be more user driven and more available to meet customer demand.

1.1.6 Government/Regulatory Agencies

New free-trade acts, environmental policies, tax and other government treaties are shifting the economic balance between different modes of transportation. An information requirements increase, in an unmountable reliance on the government to set a new standard in all areas of transportation, ultimately delaying pricing and billing information. As an example, airlines have the opportunity to introduce new technology to track and contain rising expenses, but unlike the FAA approve this technology, it could be a barrier for any beneficial gain.

Automatically hain demand a number of complex, interwoven capabilities. In turn, the capabilities require expertise in a variety of disciplines, combined with traditional logistics resources such as distribution and transportation. Auto-component organisation faced with reorganising their supply chain mutually strategise a high growth, giving ample consideration to technology, while ensuring they an integrational excellence. Automakers now demand products at a global scale that cannot deliver will lose their competitive advantage in the market place.

As discussed above we summarise the objectives as follows:

1) To probe the basic question : Is the Industry really ready to take on the CRM hype in terms of awareness of what the IT solutions have on platter to offer? Having done this we will probe in what is that will enhance the effectiveness of Supply Chain from Order to Cash cycle with regards to missing links in connecting the supplier , manufacturer and Customer popularly termed as Supply Chain.

2) To find how organizations can implement successful CRM strategies in the workplace by integrating with Suppliers and using single sign-on to open a Web browser. With single sign-on, an individual need only log on once to the workplace system to access all of the underlying systems, such as the company's ERP system, a third-party application, or an information Web site. The workplace is not limited to the PC. With the growing use of mobile Web devices, individuals can take their workplaces on the road anytime, anywhere. Through effective CRM implementation and use of internet, the organization can secure access to Web-based tools that provide fast movement of data; e-business tools that create consistent, reliable, timely, and accurate information; and enterprise application and information integration tools, commonly

called middleware, that link software component from many different manufacturer so that they can work together. Taking above objective in consideration we define the scope as follows:

1.2 Scope of Proposed Research

1. The research will focus on study of Effectiveness of CRM applications in various companies in area of Auto-component .
2. This research will probe if Industry is really ready to take on the CRM hype with respect to awareness of what the IT solutions have on platter to offer.
3. This research will identify issue & recommend framework to effectively use CRM application with reference to successful CRM site .

The merging of new business technology that increasingly link manufacturer to their suppliers, distributor and customer has made it theoretically possible for companies to wifely or hesitate our to respond to a hundred customer's whim . While this model may be ideal for customer , it is far from reality for most manufacturer .

For companies to prosper through real-time innovation , low manufacturing cost , zero inventory , superior quality and excellent customer satisfaction for every customer is a function of our . No company has the magic formula to do everything for everyone , and, satisfying a hundred customer perfectly is the same as satisfying the least profitable customer just like anyone else . That means waiting for our on unprofitable customer , while undervaluing the most profitable one . Manufacturer have to learn to balance customer value and ultimately have to build loyalty where it counts the most, while appropriately valuing the valuable customer .

Our research shows that manufacturer need to integrate supply chain management (SCM) and customer relationship management capabilities (CRM) capabilities to differentiate

the way they treat a household and vary uniformly. Manufacturers are a high priority by leveraging Internet technologies to create what we call "digital loyalty networks." Digital loyalty networks provide real-time, differentiated responses to uniform ordering to their loyalty, lifetime profit potential, requirements and cost to serve. By focusing on the maximization of their value creation process in digital loyalty networks, companies will begin to rather than benefit of the new digital companies.

A recent research conducted to assess the value of loyalty networks, conducted interviews of more than 850 executives in 35 countries with companies ranking among the largest 25 percent in each country and operating in manufacturing-based industries, including chemical and pharmaceutical.

Measuring uniform loyalty against uniformly collaboration, they created the matrix, which classifies companies according to uniform loyalty and uniformly collaboration. On the horizontal axis, companies are classified according to how well they have performed in terms of uniform loyalty and retention on a scale of 1 to 5. Uniform loyalty maturity is also included in the measurement of a uniform retailer's performance and performance of the company. On the vertical axis, companies are classified according to our uniformly collaboration index. The index is based on answers from executives on how well their companies have integrated suppliers, distributors/retailers, uniform and internally, all measured on a five-point scale. Basically summarized as follows: the index can take on values from zero to 20, with zero being the lowest score and 20 the highest.

The matrix shows four types of companies--loyalty networks collaborator, loyalty and market take a outline below.

ÉThe loyalty networkers (the upper right quadrant) are the companies that score four or five on our customer loyalty/retention and 14 or higher on the collaboration index. According to our survey, only 13 percent of all manufacturers in the survey are classified as loyalty networkers.

Collaborators (upper left quadrant) score 14 or higher on the collaboration index. However, despite their efforts, they are less successful in terms of building customer loyalty, scoring three or less on our customer loyalty/retention. Twenty-nine percent of companies are classified as collaborators.

Loyalists (lower right quadrant) scored in the high rating loyal customer, scoring four or five on our customer loyalty/retention. However, their utility chains are not well integrated (scoring 13 or below on our integration index). About 15 percent of companies surveyed are loyalists.

ÉMarket takers (lower left quadrant) constitute the remaining 46 percent of all respondents. These companies neither scored in integrating with utility chain partners (scoring 13 or below on the collaboration index) nor do they achieve high utility customer loyalty (scoring three or less, or not measuring customer loyalty/retention).

Loyalist allies with profitable value an average 15 percent below loyalty networkers. Loyalty networkers are more than three times as likely to reform explicitly on their goal for shareholder return compared to collaborators, and nearly 50 percent more likely to far exceed the goal compared to loyalists. Not surprisingly, market takers fall to the bottom as they do not have in the gain from customer loyalty and more efficient utility chain collaboration. In fact, they are forced to accept market conditions at both buy and sell side due to weak relationships with customers and suppliers.

While online procurement and B2B exchange have created new opportunities for transaction reduction and market making, these capabilities should not be the sole target for

omani trying to improve their business model. Without using new Internet technologies to improve supply chain collaboration (collaboration) and to integrate with customer relationship management (differentiation), omani will find it increasingly difficult to compete and attract customers.

Optimizing supply chain management and customer relationship management in isolation from each other will not be sufficient. Breakthrough business will make use of integrated CRM, M and business solutions to create digital loyalty networks. They will combine factors, such as customer lifetime value and requirements for a customer with a network-wide knowledge of products and opportunities of serving the customer. This information will help manufacturers match human network partners and capabilities with the right customer.

Before discussing the ideal model of digital loyalty networks and their benefits in detail, clarification of some basic assumptions and contrast between traditional supply chain management and the new model is needed. There are three key elements: dynamically differentiated customer relations, dynamic prioritization of activities and dynamic prioritization of customer orders.

Dynamically differentiated customer relations: Operating under the assumption that the customer is always right, the traditional supply chain model is based on the principle of satisfying all customers. Often this involves no inventory, no stockpiling and a lot of profitable customer acquisition. As a result, one-size-fits-all supply chain model with similar lead times and service levels is no longer adequate in a highly competitive, technology-driven manufacturing environment. The new model suggests a differentiated supply chain relations for every customer or segment. Under the new rule, the one-size-fits-all model is differentiated. Rather than attempting to treat all customers alike, manufacturers should determine which ones are the

most valuable for their business. The likelihood of retaining their hard and earned cash of their hard-earned two of the factors worth tracking. It becomes crucial to determine which factors drive a company's profitability and then concentrate on understanding and fulfilling their financial needs to keep them loyal.

Dynamic prioritization of capacity: The idea of 100 percent capacity utilization has become an outdated goal in and of itself. In fact, the new principle requires companies to think of capacity utilization as a factor in the "best customer" equation. By applying new tools for customer and supply chain management and execution, operations capacity (such as machine availability, warehousing and distribution) is re-invented or out-sourced to network partners -- and dynamically committed to customer on a priority basis. Today, most customer differentiation of this nature is carried out according to the "manage-by-execution" principle, which only directs supply chain resources at on-demand lots.

Dynamic prioritization of customer order: Many companies have always operated under the premise that "lots are lots for value." The new Model asserts that not all are necessarily good alike. Again, order must be managed so that the most valuable customer are appropriately prioritized. For example, some companies are much more likely to give advanced notice of incoming orders. In contrast, other customers may place large orders with little notice and require highly discounted prices, often having no many ongoing needs in place that in the long-term they are too costly to satisfy and are unprofitable. Existing customer demand, whimsical or not, nibbles away at profitability in ways companies hardly notice -- until it's too late.

The contrast between collaboration and differentiation can be observed dramatically. Collaboration largely ignores the portfolio of customer with often vastly different lifetimes.

value to the firm and requirement for the supply chain. However, by applying differentiation, an integrated CRM and M a roa h i o ibl to d ign th o timal r our to a h u tom r. Thi i n ary to r olv th u tom r aradox.

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converted into a more loyal and valuable customer by jointly identifying opportunities for product reduction and value creation.

While the contract is minimal, the complexity of designing and managing an entire network of business partners to provide a differentiated response to a heterogeneous customer segment is daunting. Without any doubt, to work effectively a digital loyalty network critically depends on the integration of CRM and CRM capabilities through new business platform.

The key is differentiation and prioritization. The fundamental of the most efficient supply chain should be first leveraged to appropriately satisfy a company's customer. By harnessing business, CRM and CRM capabilities, companies can transform their supply chain into a differentiated network that are able to resolve the customer paradox.

To be successful, manufacturers must take all the components of a digital loyalty network and finally their collaboration with suppliers and other channel partners in order to address a heterogeneous customer's demand. The network, in other words, must be integrated. It must provide a real-time view of supply chain constraints, manufacturer's lifetime value and requirements and digitize the supply chain integration through new business platform to manage network partners accordingly.

To provide a better idea of how companies can create a digital loyalty network, companies can use a four-stage approach. By continuing to improve the (1) understanding of customer value, requirements and supply chain costs, (2) network design, (3) management and execution, (4) management of performance, companies will create a virtuous cycle and a real competitive advantage that competitors will find it increasingly difficult to imitate.

Understanding customer value, requirements and network costs: To define what matters and design an optimal customer value proposition, companies need to identify and understand their

customer lifetime value, loyalty and customer review requirement and total cost to serve. While this is not an easy task, new technologies for managing information are improving the process. Despite the globalisation of the manufacturing sector, most companies continue to struggle when it comes to understanding customer in foreign markets.

Digital loyalty network: By knowing their customer better, loyalty networks are designing the most appropriate network to satisfy a customer starting with the most valuable. Dynamically committing talent, capacity, logistics, labor and inventory according to their value and requirement provides companies with a blueprint for success. The challenge of doing in collaboration with network partners, however, is enormous. Loyalty networks are ahead in using technologies, such as real-time data systems, customer data integration, data warehousing, -ommerce and Retail.

Management network strategy: Executing the strategy and managing the loyalty network requires a real task of capability. Without doubt, online links to relevant network partners and customer, companies are likely to find that managing a network is a daunting task. As companies continue their work from product-centric to customer-centric strategies, the most profitable part of their business will likely continue to focus on strategies utilizing and loyal customer.

Major loyalty network performers: Most importantly, companies must design and implement new performance systems and metrics, spanning their network of business partners. To continuously evaluate the performance of the digital loyalty network, major metrics include covering issues of customer satisfaction, inventory and manufacturing management, yield time and delivery efficiency in multichannel, big data driven real time, and be hard with key loyalty partners. The "soft" side of the metrics is likely to be one of the most important ones.

Aligning supply and the organisation will often prove a huge obstacle to companies to become tomorrow-focused and develop digital loyalty networks.

Just about every business organisation from manufacturing to distribution to retail is at least aware of the fact that the Internet has led to radical changes in the operations of supply chain management. The technology tools have changed, the roles have changed, and most importantly, businesses have had to change the way they operate to accommodate the new capabilities --and demands-- that the Internet has brought to the supply chain equation.

Although the Internet can be a great enabler in the process, it can also bring its challenges to a role as a complex and diverse supply chain. While communication of information can be a valuable and reinforcing moral environment at the same time, any "disconnect" between the elements of the supply chain can result in many problems that are not solved.

This is a challenge that is increasingly critical for an industry where margins are thin, product life cycles are short, and the demand for next-generation technology is constant and increasing. Any role that will get product to the market faster and more efficiently is critical to maintaining healthy bottom-line results. For example, our use of raw material through marketplaces, engaging in collaborative design, automating assembly, tracking shipments, and improving customer service are all being handled by the power, the revenue, and the value of the Internet.

1.2.1 Managing Relationships

There are many numbers of relationships that need to be formed and maintained in the supply chain. Retailer, OEM and various manufacturers interface with end-user suppliers, manufacturer with their suppliers, and also others. Manufacturer and design firms interface with

their count r art in oth r lo ation and/or organisation . H l d k n d in tant a to information from manufa tur r and u tom r . Th rmutation an b ndl , and th valu of having th Int rn t to manag th int rr lation hi i vid nt.

Th Int rn t ha al o r at d a ituation in whi h organisation mu t d al with mor information than v r b for . In th Int rn t world, a h inquiry, rodu t r gi tration or art - ord r that i f d into th y t m an b gin a u ly- hain y l , r gardl of th our . A im l u tom r r qu t for information an t off a hain of v nt that will im a t v rything from al and mark ting at th front- nd, to logi ti , ollaborativ lanning and for a ting, manufa turing, d ign and ro ur m nt ro b hind th n . A u tom ord r an im a t our ing o tion . A d ign hang an rom t an adju tm nt on th logi ti id . Unu ally hort tim lin an r quir th rvi of a ub ontra tor.

In a fully int grat d u ly hain infra tru tur , a h a tion that tak la at any oint in th u ly hain will trigg r on or mor manag m nt tool -- u ha R (nt r ri r our lanning), RM (u tom r r lation hi manag m nt), RM (u li r r lation hi manag m nt), advan d lanning, logi ti , and mor .

On of th riti al u ly hain manag m nt tool that mu t b int grat d i RM. Thi an r r nt th our of mu h of th information that manufa tur r and O M n d to o rat th ir bu in . A larg ortion of thi information i gath r d from W b data, for xam l , wh n om ut r or oftwar buy r r gi t r th ir ur ha on th W b. Information xtra t d from that data h l tabli h u h aram t r a ur ha ing att rn , t hnology r f r n , t ., to g n rat additional al .

Wh n a al o ur , information i f d to th O M, who int rfa with th art u li r , who in turn mu t ord r raw mat rial . N dl to ay, th mor a urat ly and qui kly

that information is available throughout the chain, the fact that production and delivery of products.

RM tool are also important in effectively managing the supply chain. RM tool allow users to work collaboratively across the Internet to determine detailed product availability, pricing data, production, order confirmation, pricing, etc. By collaborating over the Internet, manufacturer, OEM, distribution house, logistics provider and retailer can make timely decisions as to when to schedule production, who will handle the customer, how to handle, who will provide the billing function and who will be the contact for any out-of-delivery requirement.

1.2.2 Managing Delivery

Logistics is yet another critical function where the Internet is playing an increasing role. There are already numerous Internet-based offerings that can be managed in-house or contracted to third-party logistics specialists who provide customer, supplier and manufacturer with the ability to track inventory, identify source and destination and determine exact delivery time online, in real-time.

Having an efficient logistics management in place that interconnects all parties via the Web enables prompt delivery, or at the very least, immediate notification to the customer, supplier-reviewer and other involved groups in the event of delay.

This functionality can further extend to allow manufacturer and OEM to optimize delivery routes by consolidating pricing function, for a single delivery schedule according to a demand or using other options that can help drive down cost without compromising customer review.

1.2.3 Managing Design

If online identifiers that the lifecycle of a average 20 week or longer for an engineering change from into effect, reducing the time and dollar that are not on new product development translated into in random and faster time-to-market. As with other areas, the Internet can play an important role in this all-important element of the supply chain.

Through the Internet, designers can collaborate with suppliers to coordinate design and material delivery, thereby reducing cycle time and cost in bringing new product to market. In this model, everyone has real-time access to critical information such as design specifications, product availability and alternatives. In addition, any design change or substitution can be automatically disseminated to the relevant areas for authorization, whether that be during production, ordering new parts, notifying suppliers or promoting the revised kit to the customer.

1.2.4 Managing Procurement

While online procurement has been in place for some time, the Internet has extended procurement functions even further with the advent of business-to-business exchange and e-marketplaces. These marketplaces allow manufacturers to purchase millions of direct and indirect materials in many ways, including auctioning, bidding, and short- or long-term contract negotiation.

E-marketplaces can be public (usually comprising a consortium of companies within a vertical industry, such as high tech) or private (focusing on a particular business and only allowing authorized vendors, customers and suppliers to gain access). E-commerce companies are not only purchasing materials through an e-marketplace, but they are also using it as an alternative

value to increase sales to a broader customer base. In fact, at any given time, a single manufacturer or supplier can be a participant in multiple e-commerce markets, a supplier or a client. However, while e-commerce is increasing, competition for products and/or services is also increasing. This means that whoever is the most efficient in terms of meeting customer requirements, ensuring availability and honoring delivery deadlines will profit the most from the e-commerce market. In other words, the owner of the most efficient and integrated supply chain will win out in the end.

Although e-commerce is still in its infancy, statistics indicate that just over one-third of companies are starting to buy indirect materials from e-commerce, while 12 percent are buying direct materials. While e-commerce will not entirely replace traditional ordering methods, they will definitely play a role in improving time-to-market and reducing requirements for certain classification of materials.

1.2.5 Managing It All

While the Internet offers the potential to dramatically improve supply chain management, in real life the execution can fall somewhat short of the mark. One major problem is that linking a large amount of information at various stages in the process is not enough. But this is not a major fraction of how the Internet can be deployed for effective supply chain management. It is important to take the process a step further by fully integrating critical supply chain capabilities and resources.

There is an almost infinite range of Web-enabled supply chain management tools that can and should be integrated into the process. While some of the functions are embedded in ERP packages that are available, there is also a broad range of best-of-breed products offering that can be integrated to deliver optimum results.

What is the role of supply chain management tool, in the road development and integration of the system that is key. Without full-scale integration up and down the supply chain--from the purchase of raw material to delivery to the consumer's door--the value and efficiency of the supply chain will always be limited. Automation, new product development, transaction re-engineering, end-to-market and vendor-tomorrow will offer a a result.

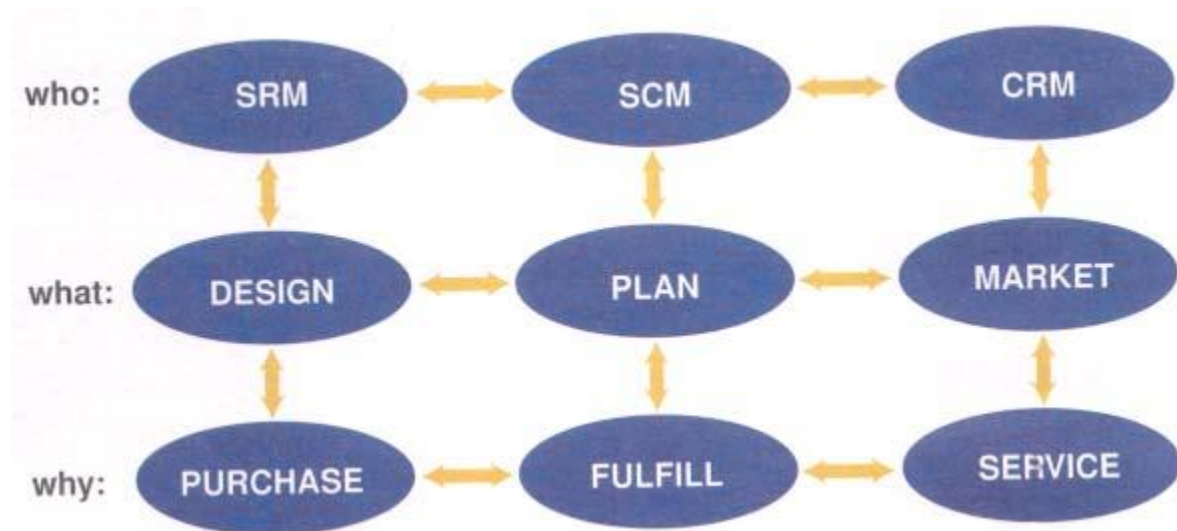


Figure 1-E-Business Integration End-to-End

1.3 Limitations of Proposed Research

The present research will analyze the role of information technology and management to make CRM implementation effective, find the issues in effective deployment of CRM from information Technology point of view and give clear recommendation to use them effectively with reference to Autocomponent industry in which author is presently working. The package and functionalities referred are generic in nature and do not specify any technology platform like Oracle, Siebel or SAP. The findings would be applicable to all technologies in CRM domain.

Th u ly hain i a n twork of u li r , fa tori , war hou , di tribution ntr and r tail- r through whi h raw mat rial ar a quir d, tran form d and d liv r d to th u tom r. u ly hain manag m nt i th trat gi , ta ti al and o rational l v l d i ion making that o timi u ly hain rforman . Th trat gi l v l d fin th u ly hain n twork, i . , l tion of u li r , tran ortation rout , manufa turing fa iliti , rodu tion l v l , war hou , t . Th ta ti al l v l lan and h dul th u ly hain to m t a tual d mand. Th o rational l v l x ut lan . Ta ti al and o rational l v l d i ion making fun tion ar di tribut d a ro th u ly hain.

In ord r to o timi rforman , u ly hain fun tion mu t o rat in an int grat d mann r. But th dynami of th nt r ri and th mark t mak thi diffi ult; mat rial do not arriv ontim , rodu tion fa iliti fail, work r ar ill, u tom r hang or an l ord r , t . au ing d viation from lan. In om a , th v nt may b d alt with lo ally, i . , th y li within th o of a fun tion. In oth r a , th robl m annot b "lo ally ontain d"; modifi ation a ro many fun tion ar r quir d. on qu ntly, th u ly hain manag m nt y t m mu t oordinat th r vi ion of lan / h dul a ro u ly hain fun tion .

Th Int grat d u ly hain Manag m nt (I M) roj t addr oordination robl m at th ta ti al and o rational l v l . It i om o d of a t of oo rating, int llig nt ag nt , a h r-forming on or mor u ly hain fun tion , and oodinating th ir d i ion with oth r ag nt -thi i all d a Logi ti al x ution y t m(L). Th fo u of our r ar h i on th d v lo -m nt of 1) a th ory of oordination that allow ag nt to oo rativ ly manag hang , 2) a th ory of ag nt robl m- olving that nabl ag nt to oo rat with oth r ag nt in th ir x loration of olution , and r a on in an "anytim " mann r, and 3) a th ory of ag n y

and a support tool that enables us to build multi-agent systems with minimal programming effort, based on trust and robustness.

Our approach views problem-solving as a negotiation/optimization process where agent influence and other problem-solving behaviour through the communication of on-trait coordination over when agent develop plans that satisfy their own internal on-trait but also the on-trait of other agents. Negotiation over when on-trait, that cannot be satisfied, are modified by the subset of agents directly involved. One of the main thrust of this research is to investigate the use of on-trait, their verification and relaxation (i.e., modification), as a means of coordination and negotiation. The recent advent of the Internet and WWW as infrastructure for global connectivity has confirmed the distributed multi-agent orientation of the project and has allowed us to develop new Internet agent technologies that can actively support the global integration and management of the supply chain.

The focus of our research is on the development of a theory of coordination that allows SRM, CRM and ERP to cooperatively manage the Supply Chain efficiently and effectively in the auto-component industry.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

The competitive arena today has shifted from price, quality, and promotion to speed and customer service. In response, competitive companies are undertaking the intensive research necessary to let customer, not marketing or research and development, direct the future. They are putting into place Customer Relationship Management (CRM) strategies that attract the right customer, keep them coming back, and harvest them for quality profit.

Customer Relationship Management is a comprehensive and integrated approach to developing, supporting, and retaining quality customer. CRM software applications are used to view customer interaction and make this information available throughout the company. The most commonly defined components include sales and marketing automation, customer support/call centre, field service, sales force automation, and product configuration. The CRM solution market is projected to grow rapidly over the next few years. (Butler, 2000)

In a well-executed CRM strategy, operations revolve around the customer and involve much more than any one software application. CRM marks a new way of doing business and affords a clearer insight into customer behaviour. Execution of a CRM strategy brings with it the opportunity to realign and reinvent processes that touch the customer in many ways. Superior implementation merges the so-called front-office and back-office operations. This gives organizations a complete view of their customer relationships, while opening up internal systems so that customers can service and sell themselves.

Today many companies use the supply chain in different ways to suit their own needs. The basic principles are still the same, gather information and mould it while cutting down on the time it takes to get material and distribute the product to the customer, one of the major tools

used today in the internet. Firms throughout the world use this global communication medium. The biggest importance to companies is keeping them in touch with the doing of other similar companies around the world, use of the internet include soliciting potential customers as well as finding out what the competition is doing. The inexpensive form of advertising has become a favourite for marketing directors of all firms. This new medium allows for the connection to previously unreachable markets. Some companies like Amazon Books are a virtual company using the internet as its headquarters. What Amazon does is sell books, but instead of being located in the local mall their location is Amazon.com on the internet, this is an example of a true virtual supply chain, by reaching customers and suppliers alike without actually being there. To place an order all that is required is to gain access to the virtual store and then find what book you are looking for. The book arrives at your door by any number of package carriers, with a saving of 15% or greater over a local bookstore. The reasons prices are so cheap is there are no locations to lease and few employees run a store that services literally millions of customers from one location (David, 1999).

One of the other problems with the supply chain is that when first put on the market it promised to reduce the number of workers there by increasing productivity. The problem is that supply chain management has only displaced jobs and no real productivity gains show up in most sectors of the economy. Other hindrances to supply chain management include less face-to-face interaction, this is a problem mostly on the sales side of the business. Companies are now on a Just in Time delivery system that brings their goods to the factories when they are ready to use them. The ordering process for this system uses supply chain value. What happens is that a buyer's inventory record points on the supplier's system. They have a maximum system in place telling the supplier when to ship the product. This definitely cuts down on the number of people

business who come by to check inventory level and see if you are ready to place another order. With the new inter-plant communication people see level and level of their co-worker and supervisor.

The unprecedented growth of the internet has made it a mass media, providing an opportunity for commercialization. It is fast becoming a new medium for doing business presenting unlimited challenge and opportunities that are already being tapped by many organizations. It brings value to critical business activities and if properly implemented, it could positively impact the business model by bringing cost efficiency, shorter time to market and so forth.

In order to be competitive in today's global market, organizations need to forge tighter and closer working relationships with their supply chain partners. There is a need to automate processes across all of the partners and ensure that transaction flow quickly and securely between the different partners. Organizations must be able to extend their information systems beyond their boundaries and include their partners. The internet provides the organization with the opportunity to achieve this - the opportunity to transcend boundaries, leverage legacy resources and behave like a single virtual enterprise.

As there are the early days of supply chain automation through the internet, there are bound to be challenges. The successful implementation of e-supply chain depends heavily on the ability to break down barriers among business partners all along the supply chain. Only trust and collaboration between the supply chain partners can help achieve this.

Although there are challenges to the implementation of the e-supply chain, the benefits derived from an integrated supply chain will overcome these challenges as companies come to realize the need for real-time information systems and adapt to new business models. A

organization enter a new age of global competitiveness, electronic supply chain would serve as a tremendous catalyst for this new age and aid them in their quest for market share and profitability (Dick, 1994).

It is a strategy used to learn more about customer's need and behaviour in order to develop stronger relationship with them. After all, good customer relationship are at the heart of business success. There are many technological components to CRM, but thinking about CRM in primarily technological terms is a mistake. The more useful way to think about CRM is as a process that will help bring together lot of pieces of information about customer, sales, marketing effectiveness, responsiveness and market trends. The idea of CRM is that it helps business use technology and human resources to gain insight into the behaviour of customer and the value of those customer. Customer feel valued when their name and preferences are known to sales and service representatives; and when they experience personal, respectful and efficient service, their positive opinion of a company is reinforced. The benefits of CRM success extend to all employees when an organization runs more efficiently and profitably. Some examples: sales reps are able to spend more time selling and less time entering data. They retrieve and send information more quickly, and they have a consistent method to track and follow up leads. Customer service reps are more confident when they interact with customer and the information they depend on is more consistent and helpful, because the reps have a complete customer profile and history on the screen in front of them. Managers can make informed decisions faster, because they can quickly generate customer reports, profiles and forecasts (Duboff, 2000).

For CRM to be truly effective, an organization must first decide what kind of customer information it is looking for and it must decide what it intends to do with that information. For

example, many financial institutions keep track of customer's life stage in order to market appropriate banking products. The organization must look into all of the different ways information about customers comes into a business, where and how this data is stored and how it is currently used. One company, for instance, may interact with customers in a myriad of different ways including mail campaigns, Web site, brick-and-mortar store, call centre, mobile sales force staff and marketing and advertising efforts. Solid CRM systems link up each of these points. This collected data flows between operational systems (like sales and inventory systems) and analytical systems that can help sort through the records for patterns. Companies can then comb through this data to obtain a holistic view of each customer and pinpoint areas where better services are needed. For example, if someone has a mortgage, a business loan, an IRA and a large commercial checking account with one bank. CRM itself is not a technology, even though technology is required to enable CRM, technology makes it possible to integrate the large volume of customer information that are required for CRM, and to efficiently transform this information into useful knowledge. Technology also enables a company to interact with its customers in ways that provide value to the customer, as well as make it easier for the customer to do business with them. However, leveraging this customer knowledge to make better business decisions and to be responsive to customers remains the responsibility of individual managers and workers at all levels within the company.

Achieving this one-to-one future is possible for e-businesses. It first requires developing and perfecting profiles of customers. The analogy is provided of the friendly shopkeeper, who, before mass marketing, knew his customers by their habits and lifestyles -- not just their demographics. Customers must feel that they can trust a company. Companies can build trust by offering higher standards of privacy (Fournier, 1998).

2.1 CRM in organizational Perspective

CRM requires that an organization view customer relationships as means to learn about customers' needs and wants and how best to create, satisfy and sustain them while concomitantly helping the organization to meet its objectives. To tailor solutions that enhance customer functionality and to determine new customer functionalities, customer intimacy and partnering are required. Networks of customer relationships involving channel members, end users, advertising agencies, research Indian firms, etc. are created and require management.

More and more organizations are turning to customer relationship management (CRM) solutions to drive revenue growth, productivity, and customer satisfaction. A great number of these organizations have achieved significant results. Genting Group, Hong Leong Bank and Malaysia National Insurance are examples of Malaysian organizations that have rolled out successful CRM strategies. However, some organizations have not achieved all of the benefits they had hoped for. Instead, they have encountered problems ranging from cost overruns and integration challenges to poor user acceptance.

Weiss notes the lack of adequate guidance in the literature about how to build these relationships. One of the researchers suggests that personalization and online interactivity can be used to help build emotional connections with stakeholders in ways that no other medium can. Other researchers maintain that the highest use of the Internet among businesses has been as a "listening" medium (Day, 2003).

The World Wide Web has evolved into a medium with various generic relationship-building attributes. The higher the quality of the information a company can capture about its customers, and the more complete the information is, the better the company will be able to use decision analysis to predict customer behavior. More targeted and customized relationship

strategies can result from better predictions of customer needs. Online CRM can enhance the value of the relationship for both customers and the e-business. Customers can receive more products and communications that are better suited to their needs and lifestyles, and the e-business can benefit from a group of high-value repeat customers (Fein, 1-8). This discussion brings forth the parameter of effective response to customer queries in judging the efficiency of supply chain (Refer performance measure 4.3.1)

2.2 Current Advances in CRM

The notion that organizations have supply chains that require active management to maximize efficiency is well recognized. Indeed across a number of industries, including the retail sector, supply chain efficiency has become a dominant corporate paradigm, driving business models and at least in the short term delivering improved profitability. A researcher discusses "customer driven" logistics as an increasingly accepted concept, by suggesting that a customer approach will ensure supply chain efficiencies.

Recent events would suggest this as a fraught strategy. The notion that an effective supply chain alone will ensure adequate customer satisfaction by reducing costs and therefore prices is not necessarily an adequate model by itself. Researchers have noted in the late 1990s in an annual report the positive impact on overall profitability of its increased logistics productivity and saw this as a key corporate strategy. This reflected a business model dominated by a downstream-oriented supply chain, assuming a relatively "steady state" amongst its customers. The problems that Marks and Spencer, and to a degree Sainsbury, experienced during the 1990s were not because they mismanaged the operational effectiveness of the business, but rather because they missed the shift in customer expectations and did not appear to respond to those expectations (Pieter, 2002).

Researchers add emphasis to the argument a pure supply chain focus is inadequate if we are seeking to add value for customers (Klein et al., 2005, 37). They suggest: the supply chain is a customer service-led process. Researchers have taken the argument a step further by looking at the demand chain as an entity in its own right, suggesting first a simultaneous standardization and differentiation in consumer preferences for products (the demand chain), and second a continued emphasis on cost minimization in manufacturing supply chains.

Unfortunately, these two are often at odds with each other (Maurino, 2006a). This is an interesting differentiation between the supply chain and the demand chain and between demand management and demand chain management (Reason, 2007). They define the demand chain as: "The complex web of business processes and activities that help Indian firms understand, manage, and ultimately create consumer demand." They emphasize the point that demand chain management attempts to analyze and understand overall demand for markets within the firm's current and potential product range.

Supply chains, by contrast, emphasize efficiencies in the production and logistics processes, while the demand chain emphasizes effectiveness in the business. A very useful point in their argument is that demand chain analysis and management helps to improve an organization's processes by aligning the organization around a common plan, improves coordination within the supply chain by using forecasts and plans, and exploits the commercial processes by understanding consumer demand and by selecting those markets that best meet an organization's, owned and/or leased, skills and resources. ([://www.crmcommunity.com](http://www.crmcommunity.com))

However, researchers argue that there are two significant CRM challenges faced by multi-channel businesses. First, the consistency of response from different customer points of contact with the company must be addressed. Online customers, for example, can receive

immediate feedback to their applications, questions and suggestions--but the same may not be true for customers who contact the company through a different channel such as telephone or a traditional retail outlet.

A second challenge is the need to view CRM holistically--as part of all of the organization's processes--from marketing to collections. The tendency may be to view CRM narrowly as a tactical series of transactions, but effective strategic implementation of CRM requires information from all relevant departments for the purpose of using customer information intelligently to create relationships or partnerships with customers. This discussion brings forth the parameter of -Near accurate re pon e to cu tomer requirement n term of delivery and ervice. (Refer performance measure 4.3.3)

2.3 Importance of CRM as a Core Business Process

Customer relationship management (CRM) is useful for businesses. It not only allows companies to retain the customer base and attract new clients, but also enables them to keep track of their performance and that of employees. Getting CRM solutions is not difficult as there are many providers in the market, but what is more important is whether they have adequately skilled CRM personnel. This is even more applicable to small and medium-sized enterprises looking at implementing CRM but do not want to incur too high a cost.

Intimate customer relationships offer the marketer several advantages. First, the relationship can create a committed customer. More than simply a repeat purchaser, the committed customer has an emotional attachment to the seller. These emotions can include trust, liking and believing in the firm's ability to respond effectively and promptly to a customer problem. Committed customers can be viewed as company assets who are likely to be a source of favorable word-of-mouth referrals and are more resistant to competitors' offers.

Second, CRM relationships provide a point of leverage to realize economies of scope. Committed customers are often more receptive to line extensions. Leveraging the customer base can facilitate cross-selling complementary products as well as "selling up" to higher quality substitutes.

Third, in recent years, CRM's potential to contain and reduce costs has been explored. CRM, in concert with other processes, can help reduce churn or turnover in a company's customer base. Better customer management can result in lower sales and service costs, higher buyer retention and, thus, lower customer replacement expenditures. As a result, key operations personnel of chemical companies (the buyers) are still burdened with the administrative elements of purchasing and payment for the products and services received. This continuing problem also affects the industry suppliers and service providers (the suppliers) as reflected in the key measure of cash-to-cash cycle time (the number of days between paying for raw materials and getting paid for product, as calculated by inventory days of supply plus days of sales outstanding minus average payment period for material) for the companies that provide the products and services.

Current research for the Indian industries indicates a median cash-to-cash cycle of 91 days for the companies surveyed and a best in class of only 33 days. While some point to the complexity of the chemical suppliers and services as a reason for such inefficiencies, other industries that require just as complex products and services such as aerospace maintain a best-in-class cash-to-cash cycle of just 18 days, while the consumer packaged goods best-in-class is 25 days. Clearly, the opportunity remains for improvement. The opportunity for implementing a comprehensive strategy, around sourcing and e-procurement is tremendous and deserves serious consideration.

2.4 CRM Is the Critical Link in Building the Supply Chain

The emergence of customer relationship management (CRM) in the chemical industry reflects a fundamental shift in doing business from a traditional seller-centric approach to a customer-centric approach (McEwen, 2002). CRM technologies are designed to enable the enterprise to more effectively manage customer relationships through every aspect of the customer's life cycle, according to the Aberdeen Group, a Boston-based computer and communications consulting and market-research firm, which recently published a report on the CRM market (Kale, 2005).

The major components of CRM are marketing automation (MA), sales force automation (SFA) and customer contact center technologies and customer service. The CRM market has seen dramatic growth over the past year, and this is expected to continue. The total CRM market grew to more than \$8.07 billion in combined investments in CRM application software and related integration, hardware platforms and networking in 1999, according to the Aberdeen Group. This investment in CRM represents a growth of more than \$2.4 billion from 1998 and a growth rate of more than 43 percent in combined CRM market expenditures. This year, the Aberdeen Group projects that the market will increase 35 percent to \$10.9 billion and increase to \$14.4 billion by 2001, \$18.6 billion in 2002 and \$24.0 billion in 2003 (Self, 2004).

One key growth area in CRM is marketing automation (MA). "MA has evolved significantly as a segment from a year ago, when most of the category was defined by Internet-based campaign management tools and the latest evolution of data mining technology. MA includes tools that manage the development and distribution of collateral and unstructured

information sources and makes this information available to users via Internet and intranet sources (Nicole, 2003).

MA also includes campaign management tools that incorporate multiple communications channels, including the Internet, e-mail, and telephony-based call centers as well as traditional print-based media. MA also includes personalization tools that analyze user behavior on a Web page or purchasing and transaction histories online and then develop "offers" to the customer based on this personal history.

Aside from MA, this past year has seen the mergers of several new or emerging CRM technologies and applications--solutions that are designed to address specific areas of functionality and that expand the role that CRM can play in the enterprise. Partner-relationship management (PRM), personalization and CRM-centric analytic tools are examples of technologies that expand the scope of CRM. Other technologies, including the enterprise personal digital assistant, mobile commerce (m-Commerce), wireless application protocol (WAP) devices and handheld devices, are becoming critical components of enterprise-wide CRM and e-business (Foresheew, 2007).

2.5 Managed Care and CRM

CRM has long-term potential to transform payers' relationships with brokers and employers, providers and members. The landscape is changing for everyone in the healthcare equation: payers, brokers, group administrators, providers and members. Rising costs, coupled with the growing shift to defined contribution plans, has put competitive pressure on payer organizations. As more consumers become empowered to choose plans and financing options, the healthcare industry will need to raise the bar for customer service. (Gentle, 2003, 40)

The onus lands squarely on the payer, who counts brokers and providers as customers, as well as members. As a former healthcare executive on the payer side, I am aware of the delicate balancing act required to manage relationships with each constituency, where executing strategies to build customer satisfaction in one group could alienate the other. Driving customer relationship management (CRM) success across all customer entities is an important strategic goal for payers. The question is--how? The short answer is--constituent-specific CRM strategies deployed in phases with an interim goal of establishing the basic CRM framework.

The end goal, of course, is to provide superior member services. Healthcare consumers today have unprecedented access to information about healthcare options and an annual opportunity to shop for health plans (Gentle, 2003). To remain competitive, healthcare payers and providers must deliver value over and above price--and they must market directly to members. This discussion brings forth the parameter of *Online Order Booking* (Refer performance measure 4.3.2) in measuring the effectiveness of CRM solutions to enhance the efficiency of supply chain.

2.6 A CRM Framework

When we think about CRM software for one-to-one membership marketing, we envision Amazon-like push technology that reflects knowledge of the customer (Mims & Julian, 2007). In an ideal scenario, when a member signs onto a payer's website or calls into a call center, we would know what plan they are on, what coverage they have and what health issues concern them. We would also maintain this level of information for covered members of their family.

Reaching this ideal will be a challenge for healthcare, which remains largely a transaction-based industry (Reason, 2006). We love to identify people by a number and measure everything in terms of per member, or employee, per month. Administration costs, revenue, claims costs and number of claims are expressed as per member per month (PMPM). How do we shift from thinking about transactions to thinking about relationships? A well planned and executed CRM strategy helps payers focus on the member in PMPM (Nicole, 2003).

To build customer data into the business of healthcare, we must first establish a CRM framework of automated data flows that capture the information we need and automated workflows to establish the mechanisms required to deliver higher service levels. A successful CRM strategy with a diverse customer constituency takes place in phases. The initial phase typically automates data flows and workflows for a payer's internal organizations: marketing, sales and underwriting (Harle, 2007). The follow-on phase typically automates data flows and workflows for the customer constituents who function as the payer's partners: brokers and providers. With this framework in place, payers have the momentum and infrastructure to push out tailored, value-added services to members (Mims & Julian, 2007).

A good CRM framework facilitates the capture of information and its dispersal in discrete components to relevant payer organizations. A good CRM framework captures complete, accurate information for:

- Underwriting to make risk assessments and generate quotes;
- Sales and marketing to make accurate forecasts and precise target marketing campaigns;
- Customer service to provide better service to members, providers and brokers.

It finds efficiencies and determines the degree to which processes can be automated and costs cut. The final role of the CRM deployment--where one-to-one marketing is put into play--is

to facilitate the use of both push and pull technology to manage interactions with the payer's diverse group of constituents (Paddison, 2004).

Let us examine the data capture, process automation and push and pull technology enabled by a sophisticated CRM solution for a payer's three key customers: brokers, providers and members. This CRM technology has been deployed in healthcare on an Internet-architected platform with separate views of the application for a payer's employees, brokers, providers and members.

2.7 Broker Relationships

CRM applications automate prospecting, quoting and group enrollment processes for brokers and integrate their activities with the payer's inside sales group. Data about members are captured early in the process, when brokers submit group census data to obtain a quote. Underwriting processes the information in a ratings engine to compute a risk profile, which determines the cost of the plan the broker will quote. Marketing uses the data to tailor campaigns when renewal dates come up.

A particularly innovative use of CRM technology can be found at UPMC Health Plan, whose Web-based system incorporates a customized rating wizard for the broker network that uses familiar "next/next/next/finish" screens to greatly simplify processes (Cacciabue, 2006). Using Web-based CRM, brokers go online to obtain instant quotes, choose plan types, manage sub-brokers, communicate plan information and initiate the group enrollment process (Gentle, 2003). A UPMC sales representative is automatically assigned according to market segment and territory to support each broker sales opportunity. Tasks are automatically assigned for each step of the process (Paddison, 2004).

2.8 Provider Relationships

Data captured about providers typically focus on credentialing information: specialties, degrees, professional certifications' and board accreditations. The data are used by marketing for promotional purposes and by management to ensure that providers' qualifications are up to date.

A Web-based CRM system puts this process online, where providers use online forms to update their profiles (McAvoy, 2005). When specific credentials are in danger of expiring, alerts are automatically sent to payer management and to the provider. The key focus for process automation on the provider side is verification of plan coverage for patient procedures. This information is maintained online in member and group profiles, eliminating the need for staff to call the payer and streamlining the process for determining eligibility (Krell, 2005).

Providers also go online to see the most updated fee schedules for specific procedures. Data from customer satisfaction surveys pulled from members are pushed to providers to drive quality care. Information about new medical procedures and therapies can also be pushed to providers.

2.9 Member Relationships

Web-based CRM allows members to enroll in new plans online with a secure PIN number and provides another key point for data capture. After entering basic enrollment information, members can identify areas of particular interest (for example, women's health, controlling asthma, sports medicine) and grant permission to receive updates on topics of interest (Gentle, 2003).

During enrollment, member-specific information is captured for use by marketing and product development, and by actuarial and medical management. The CRM system ensures that

the original census data matches that of the actual enrolled members (Helmreich, 2007). Creation and mailing of identification cards and benefit materials--including summary plan descriptions and network provider lists--are automatically initiated with an e-mail to the fulfillment organization. The member, group and broker profiles all reflect the now-active benefit plan, which ensures that customer service has complete and accurate information to answer questions.

Web-based CRM technology helps payers cut costs and manage interactions across its diverse customer constituency. During the initial phase of CRM deployment, the focus is on data capture and process automation (McAvoy, 2005). Then, push and pull technology can be employed for more sophisticated marketing and more personalized customer service. Only a few innovators in the healthcare industry have gone beyond the initial phase of CRM deployment and are using it for one-to-one marketing, but their numbers are increasing. CRM will fulfill its promise for delivering superior membership services. However, we can't leap-frog the establishment of the CRM infrastructure required to make it happen.

2.10 CRM in the E-business Environment

Emerging technologies offer companies the potential to improve their ability to attract and retain customers, capture more information through the online channel than through any other customer contact point, and practice effective CRM. One of the researchers suggests that the appeal of CRM remains largely out of reach for a large number of businesses. According to supply chain experts, some CRM experts argue that there is little consensus about what CRM actually is, or how to best execute or measure it.

It is a fact that a company's CRM readiness is a function of having:

- 1) A way to track customer information;

- 2) Metrics--a means of evaluating customer performance; and
- 3) The ability to impact change.

The industries that tend to be more CRM--ready are those which are aware of distinct contact with the customer and those which are really competitive, thus requiring individual companies to differentiate themselves significantly. Examples include, but are not limited to, the airline, manufacturing, hospitality, financial services, telecommunications, publishing and tobacco industries (Amalberti, 2006).

One of the Indian firms, which also issue the credit card, went from startup to superstar status in only five years. This was due largely to a massive CRM program that "allows the company to nurture its customers and to deliver the right product (credit or add-ons, including insurance, long-distance service, and catalog clubs) to the right customer just when he/she needs it -- even if he didn't know beforehand that he did". (www.smeal.psu.edu)

Other companies are becoming effective at CRM, including TATA Group, with its personalized Web pages, with its unique service for preferred customers. Other examples include Golden Books, which used online sampling to develop its new series of print/web research guides, and R.J. Reynolds, which builds customer appreciation and brand loyalty by sending birthday cards and a quarterly newsletter to Doral smokers.

Many Indian firms, however, have been lax in implementing CRM. Lord states that the key word in CRM is still "relationship". Quality products, twenty-four hour accessibility, easy ordering, removal of geographic boundaries, on-time delivery and responsive service are what customers want today. According to a research, up to 42% of top ranked Web sites took longer than five days to respond to a customer inquiry, did not accept e-mail or never responded at all. (www.rmdonovan.com/pdf/perform.pdf)

Another mistake is failing to consider the "lifetime value" of a customer. Companies must be willing to treat different customers differently. For example, TATA Group of companies in India offers different priority upgrades for its platinum and gold customers. Many companies just have not been tracking their customers. Still others have either taken too long to start up their CRM programs or have been discouraged by overestimating what is needed to begin one. Davids recommends "scoring early, quick hits" and indicates that TATA Group's database of 26 million customers was built in only five months. In addition, he suggests using whatever data and information technology capabilities the organization already possesses to begin the CRM process. (BPR & Organizational Culture, 2007)

2.11 SCM in Organizational Perspective

Supply Chain Management is the management of the entire value-added chain, from the supplier to manufacturer right through to the retailer and the final customer. SCM has three primary goals: (Taschek, 2007). Reduce inventory, increase the transaction speed by exchanging data in real-time, and increase sales by implementing customer requirements more efficiently. In SCM-focused organizations, procurement is typically an adversarial process. Suppliers are pressured to produce high margins by customers. This is often necessary to hedge against the risk of markdowns should sales forecasts not be met. The DCM-led organization uses market knowledge to develop strong working relationships with suppliers. Given a precise understanding of customer needs (and market trends) it is possible for the procurement process to work with design and development to develop optimal solutions to product and process development options (Krell, 2005).

As research suggests, it is also very likely that web-based "buying exchanges" will be developed with competitors. These often result in joint activities that extend into shared components and manufacturing. The automotive industry offers examples of this. Operations processes also differ. For both production and distribution the SCM organization favors a cost/volume driven approach. Given a product range, the optimum costs are realized when specific "runs" can be made against sales forecasts and the finished product sold from inventory. As Figure 1 suggests there are problems with this approach, particularly if the forecasts lack accuracy or if some unforeseen event occurs.

Demand chain-led organizations adopt more flexible structures, typically minimizing downtime by adopting agile manufacturing and QR (quick response) distribution systems. DCM companies often use a build-to-order (BTO) system (and usually not manufacturing unless all or part of the payment has been made), thereby removing the risk of discounted sales to clear inventory. Working closely with both customers and suppliers concurrently can also avoid the risk inherent in the build-for-inventory (BFI) systems (Krell, 2005).

Marketing as a process is also different. The volume bias of the SCM model will often favor price as a primary marketing tool. This is understandable in markets such as fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) where often there is very little scope for differentiation and even where retailer dominance may pressure suppliers for price led promotions. A demand chain-led approach has more flexibility. Usually the decision has been made as to the extent to which price is part of an overall "value package" and this is a result of a comparison of competitor value offers. Value-in-use plays an important role in setting price in this organisation because it is usual to consider how these organisations also consider involving partners in their value propositions. (hops.wharton.upenn.edu)

The essential differences between service processes are that SCM organisations, being cost-efficiency focused, apply this attitude to customer service, including service as a necessity rather than as a feature that in itself may attract customers. Additionally the SCM organisation tends to feature logistics service as the primary service focus. Demand chain management-led organisations embrace all aspects of service in their view of customer service. Service propositions may be as important as product propositions, giving a richer emphasis to the overall value proposition. The interesting feature that often distinguishes demand chain-led organisations is their response to value migration (Johnston, 2007).

Researchers suggest that this is a feature of the current business environment. It is the notion that the added value created in a demand chain/supply chain structure can be seen to move. For example, the added value within the automotive industry has shifted in two directions in recent years, leading to a move by the industry away from vertical integration towards virtual integration. Production was once seen as the focal point of added value creation with attractive returns on investment from vertically integrated structures. Product platforms built around buying exchanges, assemblies and modules, have resulted in value migrating backwards in the supply chain towards the component manufacturers, and forwards towards marketing and service processes.

This is reflected in the Ford and GM structures that have emerged in recent years. The effective CRM practices involves the information about the linkages that are predominantly supplier and customer-based. There are tentative linkages between the two. By contrast, in the demand chain-led business there is an overall relationship management process that creates a flexible structure capable of responding to market shifts in added value opportunities.

Customer relationship management is an essential requirement for success. But differences are apparent between supply chain- and demand chain-led organizations.

The demand chain-led business structure is essentially proactive, responding to changes in consumer and market expectations (Champion, 2001), possibly developing them. This will invariably involve working with customers as they identify and crystallize their product-service needs. It often requires coordinating both customer needs with supplier capabilities to achieve a cohesive as well as an optimal solution to customer product-service needs. (knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/755.pdf)

Collaborative technologies like the workplace blur the boundaries that define the enterprise, its supply-chain partners and its customers, and those that define ERP, customer relationship management (CRM), and SCM technologies. However, in a collaborative world, these technologies have not become obsolete. Rather, they are the cornerstones and solid foundation for successful e-business implementation. Workplace and other collaborative technologies provide the missing pieces to individuals who participate in both new and existing business processes.

This current process seems collaborative, but information technology support is only cooperative. Working on the honor system, the receiving company accepts the sending company's assertion that delivery was made on a particular day and settles the bill at the end of the month. Later on, someone compares the company's receipts with the sending company's deliveries. This process, done by hand, is tedious and must be performed by each company that engaged in any activity, either sending or receiving product.

The collaborative process must be totally supported by a similarly collaborative e-business infrastructure. An independent third party collects the notes of delivery. At the end of

the month, an automated, rule-based clearing process for all of the bills clears the transactions. The workplace also supports the parties to the transactions as they work together collaboratively to clear the accounts. The current status of transactions that are in dispute is transparent to all parties. The collaborative process is much faster and more responsive. Many companies work together as if they were one.

2.12 CRM: Ready or Not?

One of the biggest myths about CRM is the idea that any company can embrace it and expect results. Well, that's like thinking anyone can run the New York Marathon. Depending on the physical readiness (in terms of weight, training and endurance), the company could be months or years away from even entering, let alone completing, the race. Similarly, a minimum "organizational readiness rating" (in terms of customer, process and systems maturity) must be in place for CRM to happen successfully (Lochridge, 2006).

Since CRM is about identifying, retaining and increasing the profitability of the company best customers, something every business under the sun ultimately wants to do, it seems like the last question the organization want to ask is whether CRM is for the company. Unfortunately, because the company has only a one in five chance of success, and simply attempting the feat will cost \$5 to \$15,000 per user per year; the company want to be very sure the company can answer this question (Young, 2006).

The company should be looking at CRM only if the company have a large number of customers (say, more than 5,000), the typical customer is worth a lot in terms of profits, and the company have a large sales staff trying to sell complex, customized products in multiple channels (see quiz, next page) (Young, 2006). If not, then the costs and disruption that CRM

entails won't be worth the benefits, and the company should look to process improvements and simpler tools like contact managers or Web-based application services. The key to CRM success is to analyze the company's maturity in four areas: customer focus, process, systems and people.

2.13 Customer Maturity

Most companies have a very good idea of what it costs to build and ship a product or create a service and the overall revenue generated. But a customer-focused company wants to know the following:

- Who is likely to buy a given product or service? The answer would enable us to target prospects with a similar profile and convert them to customers.
- Why do customers leave for the competition? The answers would enable us to fix the associated problems and to identify other customers facing similar issues and prevent them from possibly leaving as well.
- How do customers actually use a product or service, and what's the nature of their interactions with the company? The answers would enable us to identify opportunities for cross-selling and up selling (Bird, 2005).

Customer maturity is therefore a measure of how far a company has evolved from a product-based model (moving products out the door at minimum cost) to a customer-based model (who's buying our products, why do they like us, how can we measure satisfaction, why do they leave, and how can we sell them more?). (Lochridge, 2006) Companies with a high level of customer maturity try to identify the most profitable customers, quickly answer customer questions and even talk to ex-customers to figure out why they left (Coffee, 2005).

These are steppingstones to CRM and could result in IT systems such as a data warehouse, sales force automation, a marketing information system and a one-stop call center (Coffee, 2005). But each of those evolutionary steps can take six months to two years or more and cost millions of dollars in the process. Therefore it can be stated that the higher the level of customer maturity; the lower the barriers on the road to CRM.

2.14 Process Maturity

The ease with which CRM tools and technology can be absorbed into the enterprise is directly dependent on how mature the processes are in the customer-facing functions of sales, marketing and customer service.

Consider the field of software engineering, where it became readily apparent that the ability of an IT organization to absorb computer-aided software engineering tools was directly dependent on the IT department's process maturity (Young, 2006). This led to the famous process maturity levels defined by Watts Humphrey of the Software Engineering Institute:

Level 1: Processes are "anything goes" and lack even rudimentary predictability of schedules and costs.

Level 2: Processes are stable and repeatable. There's rigorous management of commitments, costs, schedules and changes.

Level 3: The organization has defined the methodology and can consistently apply it with standard metrics. At this point, advanced technology can usefully be introduced.

Level 4: The organization now has a foundation for continuing process improvement.

It doesn't take much imagination to see that those maturity levels could apply equally well to processes like sales, marketing and customer service. Customer service and order management departments are by definition process-oriented. Sales and marketing departments, however, are notorious for their lack of process. It's routine for marketing departments to have little or no idea of campaign effectiveness (Young, 2006). As for sales reps, they're inherently individualistic and averse to rules -- what counts is closing the deal; the "how" is secondary. Between first contact with a prospect and the closing of a deal, black magic is alive and well! So this is an enormous opportunity to improve sales and marketing processes.

A maturing sales and marketing department is focused on metrics such as the sales lead-to-close ratio and the sales cycle duration. Such metrics are inextricably linked to CRM and could result in IT systems such as sales force automation, an order configurator and interfaces between systems to eliminate the rekeying of information (Bird, 2005).

Companies not yet at the repeatable process stage will find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to implement CRM software, for the simple reason that there are no processes to automate! Instead of jumping into the deep end of CRM, they should instead concentrate on defining their basic processes and gradually automating those processes (Krill, 2006).

2.15 Systems Maturity

Systems maturity is a measure of how far a company's systems have evolved to reflect its level of customer and process maturity. The most important measurement of systems maturity is the evolution from islands of automation to integrated systems that share and pass information

across functional boundaries. A company with a low level of systems maturity would have completely disparate systems -- and no information-sharing -- for sales, orders, delivery, billing and customer service. An intermediate level of maturity would have interfaces between some of those systems, some information-sharing and a partial view of the customer's lifecycle activity.

At the highest level of maturity, there's full information-sharing and a full view of the customer and interfaces to back-office systems. Plus, decision support becomes part of the landscape, with transactional data consolidated to form a data warehouse (and possibly spin-off data marts) (Krill, 2006, 37). The growth in systems maturity is a long-term process, with key interfaces and a data warehouse taking up to two years or more to accomplish. But these are the building blocks for CRM. This discussion brings forth the parameter of - Flow of customer requirement across the supply chain/service. (Refer performance measure 4.3.4) in measuring the effectiveness of CRM solutions to enhance the efficiency of supply chain.

2.16 People Maturity

Last but not least, let's not forget about people, without whom no process or system is going to work anyway. People aren't going to spontaneously embrace CRM; they have to be motivated to do so. Students of psychology and motivation know about Maslow's triangle, which explains how motivation is based on personal and environmental prerequisites, called the "hierarchy of needs" (Seminerio, 2000).The company can't ask people to embrace concepts like achievement and status (esteem) if they haven't got the basic prerequisites of food and shelter (physiological). Similarly, it would be a mistake to assume that people will be naturally motivated to embrace CRM just because it makes sense and is good for the customer and the company. Certain personal and environmental prerequisites will also therefore apply. In the CRM hierarchy of needs, people will be more likely to be motivated to take up CRM if their job

descriptions are relevant to it. This would then be made even easier if they're generally satisfied with their careers, benefit from a good working environment and don't have to worry about losing their jobs (Seminerio, 2000).

In-depth insight into the functioning of any process occurs only when it is deaggregated into its constituent subprocesses. Each subprocess illuminates some aspect of how the process functions. For example, each of the core operating processes--product development management (PDM), supply chain management (SCM), and customer relationship management (CRM)--might be divided into a sequence of subprocesses that furnishes considerable detail on how specific subtasks within the process are executed. To cite one illustration, in the case of the supply chain management process, the subprocess, "selecting and qualifying desired suppliers," requires the careful delineation of the subtasks involved in selecting and qualifying desired suppliers. These subtasks might include: identifying the population of candidates; stratifying the population using predetermined criteria; collecting preliminary secondary data on many candidates; collecting primary data from selected candidates; developing choice criteria to assess candidates; collecting supplementary data on candidates that survive the first assessment; assessing candidates' organizations; testing candidates' offerings; choosing preferred suppliers; and so forth. The subprocess, collecting preliminary secondary data, could be further subdivided into more microprocesses around the following tasks: identify potential data sources; categorize data sources; screen data sources; identify data categories; collect aggregate data; collect detailed data; order data into meaningful information (Harris 2001).

2.17 Interaction among and integration of processes

Sub processes are frequently linked directly to one another: completion of the task that is the focus of one sub process leads directly to the task inherent in the next sub process. Thus, in

the case of SCM, the sub process, "establishing and managing inbound logistics," connects directly to "designing and managing internal logistics." For example, arrivals of trucks at the firm's manufacturing plant carrying raw materials, components, and supplies must be coordinated with the plant's input inventory acquisition, storage, and allocation. Sub processes, of course, as this example illustrates, also directly connect to external entities such as suppliers, channels, end customers, technology sources, and governmental agencies (Arnum, 2000). This discussion brings forth the parameter of - Customer feedback and information across the supply chain / service. (Refer performance measure 4.3.5) in measuring the effectiveness of CRM solutions to enhance the efficiency of supply chain.

2.18 Implications of e-business

The importance of e-business for processes now becomes clear. It provides the electronic means to enable connections among and between processes to take place in fundamentally new ways and at such speeds that it literally opens up the ability to radically reconfigure each core operating process, to create new sub processes within each core operating process, and to enable new modes of integration across the operating processes. Indeed, it seems fair to suggest that e-business requires managers to think about core operating processes in fundamentally new ways. The guiding premise underlying this Research is that KM facilitates and guides such thinking by serving as a means to designing, managing, and learning from these new forms of e-business-driven processes.

2.19 E-business-driven operating processes

Let us cite merely one other mode of analysis employed by some firms to create and share competitive context knowledge. A group can take any one of the operating processes as its

point of departure and then identify and assess how different firms employ e-business to transform the process. For example, with regard to the PDM process, extensive data and information could be developed and shared pertaining to:

- * The stages (or subprocesses) in each firm's current process
- * The timing and speed of movement data/ideas through the stages
- * Connections between specific internal individuals/groups and external parties in each stage
- * Degree of interdepartmental or cross-subunit collaboration in each stage
- * The bottlenecks evident throughout the process
- * Linkages to SCM and CRM processes

It typically becomes necessary to develop a knowledge map: "who knows what about individual processes and connections among them." Such knowledge maps go beyond the functional roles typically identified in process flow diagrams. For example, they can include descriptions of the nature and quality of the relationships (know-what) between internal units involved in executing adjacent tasks, for example, between order takers, order processors, and service deliverers within CRM. They may also describe the history (know-what), nature (know-how), and rationales (know-why) for the interactions between firm subunits and customers and other entities in the value net.

Consider, for example, one financial service firm's efforts to redesign its CRM. Rather than merely redesign the existing stages in the process, it began by asking how a customer would focus, that is, they envisioned the customer at the center of every process stage or subprocess and designed a "customer-centric" customer relationship management process as a result. It thus asked two core knowledge questions. What knowledge would it require about customers (their

needs, their buying preferences, whether and how they would like to partner with suppliers, etc.)? In which ways would customers prefer to interact electronically with their suppliers or partners (the information technologies they feel comfortable with; the types of data and information they would like to receive)?

A major knowledge consideration often surprisingly neglected even in generating de novo process designs concerns the ability of the newly designed process to generate new and useful knowledge for the organization. Electronic connectivity inherently allows and supports two-way flows of data and information. Thus, a knowledge imperative in thinking through potential designs for PDM, SCM, or CRM, and especially interaction across them, is to address how e-business connections can enable collection and analysis of external data, and then how such data and information can be leveraged to enhance and sustain customer value. The ideal outcome of such attention to developing new know-what, know-how, and know-why is that the firm transforms its relationships with customers, and not just the tasks and their interaction within the newly designed process.

2.20 Choosing the outlines of preferred operating processes

E-transformation of core processes occurs over time. At its core resides a perspective or vision of how the processes will function to generate and deliver real customer value. Unfortunately, if such perspectives or visions remain largely tacit in the heads of key executives or groups charged with overseeing the e-business transformation of core operating processes, then others cannot reflect on, challenge, and refine the knowledge required both to develop and execute the intended process transformation. It becomes especially necessary to do so because the greater the degree of intended process transformation and the greater the change in desired

customer experience, benefits, and involvement, the more likely that the organization is in effect creating a new business model. And, the discussion above highlights the two critical but highly interrelated elements of the business model: a new way of winning and retaining customers (through new forms of customer value generated through electronic connectivity) and a new way of organizing itself to do so (the transformation of core operating processes). The strategic importance of choosing and committing to a preferred e-transformation of core operating processes suggests the need to be especially vigilant in articulating and assessing the knowledge (the know-what, know-how, and know-why) that underpins the acceptance of one process direction rather than others.

Consider the role and importance of a number of knowledge issues now being tackled by some leading-edge firms as they seek to choose a "preferred direction" with regard to how best to integrate SCM and CRM. They are trying to figure out how to bring the traditional "planning" aspects of SCM--connecting the linkages in the supply chain--into direct contact with steps in the CRM chain and to do so in as close to real time as possible. For example, as CRM influences customers' choices through its connectivity to individual customers, information about desired product characteristics needs to be linked to stages in the supply chain--acquiring raw materials, manufacturing specific products, physical distribution, etc. Part of the promise promulgated about integrating SCM and CRM over the last year or so has been the potential emergence of "real-time visibility" in the form of almost instant transmission of required data throughout the electronically linked world of SCM and CRM. But the real excitement has swirled around the promised emergence of "intelligence response systems" to decide and respond automatically to the changing market conditions conveyed by CRM-generated data. Indeed, some firms now

believe they are well on the road to collaborative planning, forecasting, and replenishment (CPFR)--a projected form of real-time integration between SCM and CRM.

While such "self-organizing supply chains" remain as yet more aspiration than reality, they indicate the importance of the need to identify, clarify, and assess the fundamental know-what, know-how, and know-why associated with their potential emergence. To emphasize merely one facet of know-how, consider the human issues involved in CPFR. The "collaborative" aspects of CPFR raise all the difficulties that organizations traditionally encounter in managing the human side of introducing new technologies, not to mention radically transforming how work gets accomplished as part of core operating processes. Social network analysis can help identify who talks to whom and who should talk to whom, as one means to determine who should be involved in face-to-face interaction to oversee development and deployment of the electronic links mandated by CPFR. As these individuals assess the need for and potential of CPFR, they can create a knowledge repository to enable others (as well as themselves) to access the know-what, know-how, and know-why they create. One element of the repository might be descriptions of best practices (a combination of know-what and know-how) obtained through visits to other firms or through third parties such as consulting firms or technology providers. Their assessment of why different (potential) elements of CPFR do work or might not work (know-why) become essential to understanding judgments and inferences about recommended (or rejected) action plans.

As customers become more and more part of the collaboration at the heart of CPFR, and other e-business-driven process changes, then issues concerned with developing and enriching human relationships with individual customers, and not just two-way data and information transactions, must take center stage. The human side of these customer relationships thus begs

for attention to "touch" and "trust." KM methods that allow interaction across company boundaries such as many forms of communities, involving different types of interaction, enable a cross-section of employees to deal face-to-face with customer personnel, sometimes over considerable periods. Even with consumer goods firms, such may be the case. one firm has begun to develop communities of consumers around a set of interactive technologies that also allow verbal interactions and get-togethers on special occasions.

2.21 Transforming CRM

Let us examine how the customer relationship management (CRM) process has changed with the emergence of a networked economy by comparing two very successful companies-- Compaq Computer Corporation in the early 1990s and Dell Computer Corporation in the late 1990s. The discussion here illustrates the role and importance of the four central questions noted in the previous section. This discussion of Compaq and Dell marketing and business practices is based on information in the business press. There has been an extensive discussion of Dell's direct business model and the difficulties faced by firms with more traditional models (such as Compaq) in copying and/or responding to Dell's competitive advantage. Finally, the strategy discussed here for each company is for illustration purposes, and may not represent the company's current business strategy. The CRM process has two fundamental objectives: customer acquisition and customer retention. The "traditional" CRM process, emphasizing a sequence of interrelated tasks, is illustrated in Figure 1. Customers initially are attracted through advertising and promotions. These communications activities result in the development of brand awareness and associations. Brands that are successful in these dimensions enter a person's consideration or choice set via two means--top-of-mind awareness (or evoked set) or deals and pricing incentives. Customers choose from among these alternatives based on perceived value determined by a

brand's benefits relative to its price. Subsequent repurchase is based on product performance (was the advertised promise delivered?) and support services (Lamont 2005).

2.22 E-business-based customer value

How is the Dell online CRM process different from the traditional CRM approach? It affords a faster and closer relationship between Dell and its suppliers and customers. If problems develop (say) due to defective components, Dell is able to respond quickly. Further, its direct communications links to its suppliers result in problem resolution and prevention of future problems. By virtue of direct contact, Dell has better customer knowledge. This can be leveraged into additional business benefits such as development of cross-selling programs, integration of customer inputs in the design and delivery process, and the like. (M2PressWIRE, 2006)

2.23 Role of KM in transforming Dell's CRM process

Dell has developed several approaches to capture, disseminate and leverage marketplace knowledge to transform CRM and its performance. As we shall see, these approaches rely on development and sharing of knowledge, both internally (with employees across operating units and levels) and externally (with suppliers and customers) (M2PressWIRE,2007, 65).

2.24 From connectivity to knowledge in use

Dell accumulates data on frequently asked questions (FAQs) and frequently cited customer problems. Again, it transforms such data into shared know-what (common elements in the questions and problems), know-how (how best to deal with the issues surfaced by the questions and problems), and know-why (why providing help to customers is important). Such

knowledge in turn informs PDM subprocesses: what aspects of functionality need to be addressed; how reliability might be enhanced; and which features might be added or downplayed. Sharing such knowledge enables Dell's front-line employees in CRM to resolve customer concerns in real time. Moreover, such knowledge serves as a crucial input to multiple forms of electronic interaction with customers: the help desk, discussion forums, access to self-support tools, and trouble-shooting flowcharts. These self-help mechanisms take advantage of networked knowledge.

The foregoing discussion suggests a number of knowledge-driven initiatives or projects that senior managers can direct to enable e-business transformation of operating processes. From a KM perspective, many of these initiatives can, and perhaps should be, executed simultaneously: they become means to generate, share, and leverage e-business-related knowledge throughout the organization.

First, develop a knowledge project to review and assess the extent to which KM, by design or unwittingly, is contributing to the e-business transformation of operating processes. It is usually necessary to develop a community of interest around this type of "high-level" knowledge project. Such projects typically necessitate the guidance of one or more individuals skilled in the art of generating and disseminating knowledge.

A related knowledge initiative involves detailing the data and information flows around ideal or desired operating processes. A group of individuals, preferably with wide representation across the key functional areas and disciplinary silos, literally designs e-business-transformed core operating processes de novo. In one company, this knowledge initiative quickly demonstrated that each core operating process had to begin and end with customers: each process would be a series of electronic data flows, often occurring in real time, or close to it. It became

clear to the team involved that the traditional notion of a process with clear delineation and distinction between inputs, transformation, and outputs was a relic of pre-electronic times. This learning and its implications, of course, reflected significant new know-what, know-how, and know-why.

A different form of knowledge initiative finds many firms developing deep pockets of expertise around e-business, examples of which were discussed earlier. Indeed, it is becoming increasingly necessary to develop such expertise in two related ways: expertise relevant to the functional tasks inherent in traditional departments or units (such as marketing, manufacturing, human resources) but also expertise that focuses on the integration of such functions or tasks across traditional operating processes such as PDM, SCM, and CRM. In either case, it has become necessary for many managers and others, both within and outside the pockets of expertise, to embark upon extensive self-learning: to continually develop their own understanding of e-business and its implications for operating processes, their own areas of specialty, and indeed, their day-to-day job.

Supply Chain Management solutions

Today's supply chain management (SCM) environment is defined by rapid change on a global scale, as expanding competition, shorter product lifecycles, demand-driven supply networks (DDSN), and the emergence of increasingly complex, distributed business models has forever changed the way companies do business.

This environment has made excellence in supply chain execution (SCE) a critical factor that separates market leaders from those that follow. The emergence of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology promises to further distance leaders from followers as forward-

thinking companies embrace RFID as an enabler of real-time, sensor-based supply chain execution (Zuidwijk 2004).

While many companies have the strategic intent to drive value creation through supply chain management strategies that lower costs, increase efficiency, and enhance customer service, many fail to bridge the gap between opportunity and real-world supply chain results. Those that are successful realize that the dynamics of the 21st century supply chain require a new approach to execution - one designed to address both the enterprise and network complexities of today's supply chain ecosystems.

Supply Chain Management solutions include: (Computer Weekly,2003).

- * Supplier Enablement
- * Fulfillment Coordination
- * Returns Management
- * Field Service Logistics
- * Warehouse Management
- * Shipping Execution

Supply Chain Management (SCM) survey solutions help you:

- * Gain more accurate, timely, and detailed visibility into supply chain operations and supplier performance
- * Create more accurate procurement and inventory plans
- * Streamline supply chain operations
- * More effectively recognize, reward, and coach suppliers for outstanding performance
- * Strengthen your firm's overall position in your supply chain.

For suppliers whose feedback indicates they need immediate attention, SCM solutions can notify the right people on your procurement staff through real-time alerts for immediate follow-up, use Action Management to open cases with an assigned manager and deadline, or both.

SCM solutions correlate detailed supplier performance measures such as shipment timeliness and accuracy with outcome measures such as overall satisfaction and willingness to recommend, so you can focus procurement efforts in the areas and on the suppliers that will have the greatest positive impact on your bottom line.

SCM solutions will work with you to design the most cost-effective SCM feedback solution for your organization and supply chain. For example, if your enterprise has a very large number of suppliers, SCM solutions may include a census of the largest 20% of your suppliers that in aggregate represent 80% of your purchasing budget, and a statistical sampling of smaller suppliers (Kilpatrick 2001).

SCM solutions ensure that your survey solutions:

- * Contain the right performance metrics for your organization
- * Conform to rigorous design principles
- * Conserve and optimize suppliers' and customers' time in providing feedback
- * Integrate seamlessly with your IT systems
- * Deliver secure results that are immediately actionable to the right individuals.

2.25 CRM as Application

ERP and CRM are buzzwords with both a past and a future. ERP, enterprise resource planning, got on everyone's radar screen as a way to provide companies with an integrated suite of applications to tie together a wide range of disparate back-office functions and information. It

was the corporate "killer app" of the early to mid-1990s. Customer relationship management, which evolved over many years from less capable and more narrowly focused sales automation and customer service applications, emerged more recently as a killer app in its own right -- by some accounts the fastest growing software category today. Indeed, some pundits see it as not merely a category of software but as a business philosophy -- a commitment to better link organizations with the source of their income. In fact, the reach being granted CRM is one factor impelling a matching rush to connect and integrate CRM functions with all the power latent in information living within established ERP systems.

But that lofty goal for CRM increasingly hinges on an ability to link CRM functions successfully with those traditional ERP strengths -- a task that is often highly complex. However, without such connections, "customer-facing" functions won't be able to accurately represent things like delivery date for a product or service, order status or the state of a problem resolution activity. Likewise, ERP systems may miss out on the potential predictive capacity of CRM -- or the longer term potential to gather and use needed market or field information (Ferina 2001).

To maximize the potential of both ERP and CRM, customers are now demanding -- and getting -- new levels of integration and interconnection. But depending upon the organization, the ambitiousness of the goals and the specific vendor products, integration can range from merely challenging to well-nigh daunting. But make no mistake, that's the direction the market is moving at full speed.

CRM is of the same scale as the ERP initiatives that firms spent tens of millions of dollars on and needs and deserves the same level of attention. After all, this is how a firm expresses its personality to its customers.

However, heralding the new importance of integration, the authors noted that traditional ERP players are now CRM players too. "In numerous customer implementations, oracle, PeopleSoft, and SAP have made significant strides in the last 18 months to close the functional gap with Siebel and reorder the competitive landscape of the CRM market (Malhotra 2005).

"Traditional CRM approaches have been limited in that they have addressed information flow from only a portion of the value chain," said Karen E. Smith, senior analyst of Aberdeen Group in Boston. Smith said that CRM applications have done a good job tracking customers and opportunities, and tracing problems to resolution, and they have helped vendors more accurately forecast demand. But, she points out, these are largely benefits for the vendor not the customer and many decisions are being made based on an incomplete view of the customers and their needs.

While most CRM and back-office ERP and SCM (supply chain management) vendors still offer products that address only some facets of their specific domains, this trend is rapidly changing, said Smith. As the CRM market continues to mature, many software vendors are now focusing on developing new products that enable organizations to easily access important front- and back-office applications in one integrated system. Furthermore, management teams are starting to map out what system architecture, inputs and outputs, and business processes of their front-office systems will best integrate with other back-office processes, Smith noted. (Elliott 2000)

However, she pointed out, "Despite rising interest and awareness in the benefits of connecting these two domains [ERP and CRM] many companies remain crippled by the complex maze of software that runs in and out of their existing enterprise systems without any central control or management."

With these sometimes daunting goals before them in some cases nothing less than nearly total integration of virtually all systems vendors, integrators, consultants and their customers have been rushing headlong toward a brave new world where CRM and ERP speak the same language and support the same set of corporate goals.

One new approach, from Trigo Technologies, is to bridge the gap between the ERP and CRM systems with a product information repository, aimed in particular at the retail and manufacturing industries. The product aims to manage the fine-grained attributes of product lifecycles contained within SKU codes, such as regions, pricing and units of measure. This helps to streamline communication about product inventory, shipping and other information surrounding products of the customer. "Customers have a big gap in the area of product information," said Thomas Reilly, Trigo's CEO. "They want to see consistent information about their products across CRM, ERP, content management and other systems" (Elliott 2001).

Another promising trend is the emergence of Web services standards. As an integration medium, Web services standards of XML, Simple object Access Protocol (SOAP), UDDI for directory services and WSDL for marshalling the needed components, hold great promise for lowering the cost of application integration. But activity is in an early stage so reports on their impact are few today on Web services as an integration method for existing systems.

However some of the news "from the front" of implementation is encouraging: vendors are steadily building more capability into their products; integrators say they are accumulating a track record for successfully stitching together legacy systems and the newest CRM applications, and customers in a range of industries say they are happy with the end results. (David 2005).With above survey on present literature and trends in industry we found following research gap.

3. Present Status of Literature(What is Known)

3.1. The status of the CRM literature is investigated for the period of 2000 to 2007, in order to provide an overview of academic research on the subject and to identify gaps in the current literature.

3.2 To provide as complete picture of CRM as possible, the Information Systems (IS) as well as the Marketing literature was systematically reviewed. From both disciplines the top journals and a number of international conferences were analyzed.

3.3. Selected publications were reviewed in a structured way and categorized according to the different phases in the CRM lifecycle: awareness, adoption, acquisition, implementation, use & maintenance, evolution and retirement. It appears that less attention has been devoted to basic awareness, implementation issues and to the evolution and retirement phases.

3.4. Furthermore, a difference in attention was found between the IS and Marketing literature: while researchers of the latter focused mainly on the adoption and use phases, IS researchers' attention was more evenly distributed over the lifecycle.

3.5. (CRM) is a recent concept, its tenets have been around for some time. However, researchers seem to have a difficulty in defining CRM and in mapping out how to implement it. The main problem is that CRM means different things to different people. A number see it as a combination of business processes and technology that aims to understand a company's customers from the perspective of who they are, what they do, and what they are like. To some, CRM integrates marketing, sales, and service functions through business process automation, technology solutions and information resources in order to optimize each customer contact. Others opt to take an information technology (IT) perspective and focus on the fact that IT is the 'glue' that holds together and enables the whole to be operationalized. Our Thesis adopts the

following point of view: CRM is a process that utilizes technology as an enabler to capture, analyze and disseminate current and prospective customer data to identify customer needs precisely and develop insightful relationships. In today's global and fiercely competitive market, maintaining good customer relationships is crucial for companies seeking growth and profit. Worldwide IT-based CRM applications totalled \$11.2 billion in 2002 and is expected to reach \$20.6 billion by 2008. However, implementing a CRM system is a major task, and reaping the benefits of it does not appear to be easy.

3.6 The performance impacts of CRM applications to date have been mixed. Only about 35% of all CRM applications have been estimated to be a success. Even though the situation is improving, 55% of all CRM applications fail according to Gartner Inc. Because of the high investments involved and the high failure rate, research on CRM systems is called for. We have investigated the status and maturity of Electronic Commerce Customer Relationship Management (ECCRM) by means of an analysis of the number of CRM publications in top ranked IS and related journals to be on the rise, indicating that ISCRM research is gradually growing and maturing as a subfield of MIS. In 2001, Romano and Fjermestad also argued that since new topics like CRM, Internet and trust do not fit into previously defined classification schemes, there is a need to develop new frameworks in order to analyze the topics addressed by this new stream of research. They could reveal only one article attempting to classify IS research (i.e. Vessey *et al*, 2002), emphasizing that there is still work to be done to create new classification schemes that include the emerging IS research areas of e-commerce and CRM.

4. Identifying Research Gap—Phases in CRM

One way to analyze qualitative data is to use a classification system that includes a quest for regularity and standards, as well as topics encompassed by the data. The classification must then be summarized by words or phrases. We used this process to analyze and categorize the publications found. In a similar analysis with regard to ERP-systems, Esteves & Pastor suggest the following lifecycle stages: adoption, acquisition, implementation, usage, evolution and retirement (see *infra*). They argue that within the hosting organization an enterprise wide system evolves through these phases during its lifetime. In our opinion the proposed lifecycle stages are appropriate for the categorization of the examined CRM publications as well.

For this study, the content of the 510 selected articles was deeply analyzed to allow us to place every publication in a category of this predefined classification system, based on the lifecycle framework.

P1 Adoption Decision Phase: During the adoption phase of a (technology-based) innovation, such as a CRM system, decision-making and planning activities are conducted to address whether, why and how to implement the innovation.

P2 Acquisition Phase: During this phase a system needs to be chosen that fits the requirements formulated in the previous stage. There are many factors to consider such as functionality, price, training and maintenance services. CRM is a very complex combination of technology, software, people, and business processes. In order to get the most out of an implementation it is recommended that the systems designers and implementation managers design for usability and know how to manage, reduce, and overcome resistance.

P3 Implementation Phase: This phase deals with the implementation of the CRM-system. The following issues should receive attention: implementation methodologies, know-how and

training; with or without the help of consultants. The implementation should be conducted in such a way that the system fulfils the requirements of the firm.

P4 Use & Maintenance phase: This phase consists of the use of the system in a manner that ensures the realization of the expected benefits and minimizes possible negative effects. One also has to assess the value of the implemented system. Functionality, usability and adequacy to the organizational and business processes are keywords in the use and maintenance process. Once a system is implemented, it must be maintained because malfunctions have to be corrected, special optimization requests must be met and system improvements have to be implemented.

P5 Evolution phase: In this phase additional capabilities are integrated into the CRM system in order to extend or optimize the capabilities of the system and thus to obtain additional benefits. Managers also have to think about further integration of the system with the other business systems.

P6 Retirement phase: The CRM system can become inadequate to the company's needs or new, more performant technologies can appear. When this happens management has to decide whether they want to replace the current system with a more appropriate one. There are different reasons that can trigger this decision, as there are: bad implementation experiences, strategic changes or simply because another product seems more suitable to their needs.

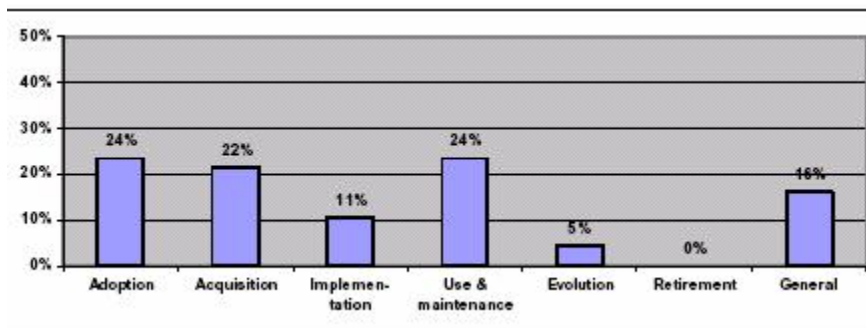


Figure 2- Life cycle classification of publications.

4. Research gaps based on literature Review

4.1 The first phases: adoption, acquisition, implementation and use appear to be more extensively covered than the last two phases: evolution and retirement. This is not surprising because CRM technology is a relatively new technology.

4.2 CRM systems in the future will reach these latter lifecycle phases and we should encourage researchers to start to investigate these phases in the near future. In the marketing literature, the adoption and use phases are well covered, whereas the phases of acquisition, implementation and evolution received little attention. This is also not surprising because marketing input is mostly needed in the former phases. It could be of value to the academic community for marketing researchers to investigate the latter phases from their point of view as well. We contend that the retirement phase should receive not only IS, but also marketing attention. The academic community should become more reactive to some extent to the business situation and even proactive if possible. Finally, we note that, while 25% of the companies, investigated were implementing CRM systems in 2006, only 6% of the marketing publications and 14% of the IS publications covered this stage in the CRM lifecycle.

Therefore, more research with regard to the basic awareness and implementation phase may be required.

- A detail research needs to be done if industry is aware of basic functionalities of CRM applications.
- A detail research needs to be done on what processes need to be integrated with CRM to make CRM implementations successful
- A detail recommendation to improve quality of CRM implementations.

Chapter Three: Problem Formulation

The initial pilot study conducted by the author has shown some interesting facts like lot of industry lack awareness about the CRM functionalities available in the packaged software. Also few places where deployed it still not used effectively that can in turn deliver an efficient IT enabled supply chain. There is a considerable lack of awareness about CRM application in the Customer relationship area. There is lack of understanding from customer as well as the packaged solution implementer like SAP or Oracle, if standard solution having same functionality is sufficient to address diverse customer servicing needs in different segments like Consumer, industrial marketing, Automotive, automotive component. This research will throw a light on requirement of increasing awareness of packaged solution to effective use of business solution to increase use of efficiency of supply chain. The possible solution to more use of CRM application is customized approach in functionality offering to cater the industry specific needs.

Interestingly, in today's world where customer is king, the IT enablement of Customer relationship is restricted to few areas like BPO, Bank and the whole area of industrial marketing is untouched. If needs of these segments are properly analyzed and catered to there is huge potential to improve the effectiveness of supply chain & customer service of the industry.

The IT enablement of areas like the auto, Auto-component industry can change the way the industry segment work today. For e.g. a customer choosing a customized car online or an OEM like TATA Motors logging an online complaint and getting immediate response from a supplier like Yazaki on resolution can change the whole supply chain offering. This will result in faster response and higher customer satisfaction with his needs getting addressed. Today we get a pleasant surprise when a credit card company knows about our choice of shopping, travel

de t nation when th y offer attractive cheme . imilarly how about TATA motor offer ng u
ome good di count on choo ng a econd car a ndigo or a afari after buy ng fir t ndica.

Thi IT enablement i next competitive advantage ndu try egment like auto , Auto-
component will have to embark on after gett ng exhau ted on co t cutt ng effort and wag ng
price war aga n t each oth r .

Th re' no gett ng around it: A CRM program nvolve complicated bu ne and
technology i ue and require ignificant nve tment of time and money. CRM i not a tool for
buff ng a company' performance at th edge ; it hould be applied only to proce e vital to a
company' competitivene --tho e that can di tance a firm from it competitor or keep a
function (uch a call centre re pon e time) on par with th re t of th ndu try when parity
count . If th target i not truly trategic, th organization will be hard-pre ed to ummon th
vigour nece ary to tackle entrenched bu ne proce e or retool it organizational tructure
and garner expected return . Before pend ng a dime on CRM, th refore, executive need to
make ure th y have th right target n th ir ight . We have analysis of three case studies to
further understand and define the problem.

Case Study Aviall Intenational:

Fulch no knew th take nvolved when he brought CRM nto Aviall after be ng
appo nted CEO n 2000. Fulch no had ambitiou plan to tran form th Dalla -ba ed di tributor
of aircraft part nto th premier vendor of upply cha n management ervice to th aviation
ndu try. By becom ng th preferred partner of both th big orig nal equipment manufacturer
(OEM) and th commercial and military fleet owner , Aviall could con olidate cu tomer
demand and extend it reach worldwide, which would re nvigorate it ale and trength n it
marg n .

But Fulch no faced a daunting obstacle to realizing his vision: Poor information and cumbersome processes hampered the company's sales and service operation. Difficulties with an existing IT system had increased sales rep's workload, sometimes keeping sales people trapped in local branches, helping managers input order information instead of making sales calls. What's more, the company hadn't trained the sales reps in proper time and territory management, which led to inefficient phone call routing and haphazard calling schedules. Customer inquiries were often routed to distant call centres that lacked up-to-date data on orders, products, and prices.

The weak customer service left key accounts vulnerable to competitors' attacks and undermined the company's ability to charge the premium price typically associated with flawless product delivery. A better-trained and more proactive sales force was a strategic necessity. Without one, Fulch's aggressive plan for the company would go unfulfilled. So the new CEO, working closely with his sales and marketing head, Jim Quinn, and his technology chief, Joe Lacik, dedicated Aviall's initial CRM outlay to this critical challenge. Rather than attempt a full-scale implementation of a broad CRM program, the executive took a more focused approach, installing only the sales force, order entry, and call centre application to begin with. Their goal was to coordinate customer information seamlessly from the outside sales agent, first to the inside sales support staff, then to the customer service representative who were manning the company's 36 regional call centres. The relatively narrow focus allowed the sales force to become familiar with the system without being overwhelmed and delivered quick victories that helped win broader management and line support and gather momentum behind the project.

The gains were striking. Before having the CRM system, the sales force relied on an outmoded database for managing client information. The system's inflexibility made it difficult

for sale and service taffer to get even basic information on a customer's order history and credit status. "There's nothing more frustrating than having a customer spend 15 minutes on an order and then realizing at the very end that there's a credit issue," says Lacik. "In the old system, credit problems didn't get flagged until you tried to place the order. Then the credit group would be called in, and you either had to have the customer on hold for a long time or call them back. In our business, there's a moment of truth: You have to have the right product, the right information, and the right price. If you don't have those three things put together, you lose the call--and if you lose the call, 90% of the time you lose the sale." With the new system, a customer's credit history instantly popped up on the order screen.

The rich information the new system provided allowed Jim Quinn to flip a switch in the sales force. It helped the agent get organized and spurred them to make more customer calls, knowing they could immediately deliver firm quotes on tailored sets of products or services. Placing an order had once required them to go through 11 screens and nearly 50 steps; now they could do it with one screen and ten steps. Just four months into rolling out the CRM system, the number of daily sales calls tripled, and the customer base grew by 33%. In fact, the productivity of the entire sales and service operation skyrocketed, helping Aviall recapture market share and win large orders for new product lines. The number of orders handled per day jumped from 1,000 to 2,500, even as error rates declined, with no increase in staff. The expanded capacity, together with the improvement in service, have built the platform the company needed to reshape itself as a full-service provider of aviation logistics support. Aviall's sales and profit have grown rapidly, and it has steadily taken market share from competitors. In a testament to Aviall's success, engine maker Roll-Royce recently awarded the firm a ten-year supply contract worth \$3 billion--the largest deal ever struck by any company in the industry. says CIO Lacik:

"We showed Roll -Royce the level of visibility we had into our customer base--visibility that we could share with them to give them a deeper understanding of customer buying trends and behaviour....A simple analysis showed Roll -Royce that it had several years' worth of supply in some products while being understocked in others because it wasn't matching manufacturing adequately with customer demand. That was a pivotal moment in winning the contract." Tightly focused on a single area of critical strategic importance, CRM has become a linchpin of Aviall's re-invention.

It's possible to use CRM systems to manage the entire customer relationship cycle all at once--initial purchase, after-sale service, subsequent purchase, recommendation to other customers (for the full range of functions a CRM system can automate, "The Customer Relationship Cycle"). But a thoughtful aggressive early adopter found, that's usually a bad idea. Such an approach ends up creating unused technology capacity, causing unnecessary budget disruption, and ultimately fails the payback test. When companies carefully examine their customer relationship cycle, they usually find some deep-seated, pernicious problems in a few areas that undermine overall performance. It is the pain point that should be the focus of the CRM effort.

Case Study Kimberly-Clark:

For Kimberly-Clark, one of the world's leading consumer packaged-goods companies, the pain point lay in its vast retailer promotion operation. The manufacturer was running thousands of promotions every year, usually offering a discount on a particular product to a particular retailer, but it was unable to accurately gauge the success of any of them. The firm had aggregate numbers on its trade promotions, but it couldn't break them down by individual customer, product, or shipment. As a result, Kimberly-Clark found itself spending huge

quantities of marketing dollars, uncertainty which promotions were producing retailer loyalty, help pace, and sales, and which were going to waste. Company executives therefore reasoned that starting with a modest, customized CRM system to collect and analyze promotion data could substantially improve the effectiveness of its overall customer relationship cycle.

Kimberly-Clark started by building onto an existing software program for account management, called Profit Calculator, which its sales department had developed to track investment in individual promotion effort. By integrating that with shipment data, the enhanced system could go beyond just providing general information about whether ROI was positive or negative. It could more precisely measure the impact of a particular promotion on sales and profit for both Kimberly-Clark and its retailer customer. says Bruce Paynter, Kimberly-Clark's vice president for customer development: "Now we can see what the real-time impact on our sales and profit is when running a promotion. Moreover, we can integrate this information into our sales and planning process with our customer." Renamed Business Planner, the software became the heart of the company's sales and marketing effort: salespeople used the tool in the field to design promotional packages for specific retailers, while the company's marketing staff used it to plot broader promotion plans. Rolled out to all of Kimberly-Clark's businesses in 2000, and supported by an intensive training program led by the organization's top executives, Business Planner rapidly proved a success. In its first year, the system was used to manage more than 2,300 promotional events involving all of the company's U.S. consumer product lines. "We applied real-time promotional-lift models [models of just how much a given promotion can lift sales] at the market, customer, and category level to aid our planning efforts with customers," Paynter says. "Using the knowledge gained through the Business Planner, we have been able to

redirect \$30 million in marketing spending across all our U.S. consumer businesses to drive incremental sales and profit and further build brand for our customers and Kimberly-Clark."

Equally important, managers say, Business Planner armed customer representatives with consistent data and business rules, which has broadened their perspective. Rather than think purely of managing sales, they think in terms of managing the business. Today, key-account reps can analyze likely financial results and engagement scenarios jointly with retailers.

And their effectiveness in reducing pan-pan trade promotion has revealed new opportunities. Building on the success of its Business Planner software, Kimberly-Clark is now implementing a more ambitious system designed to reach beyond its retailer customers into a wide array of consumer-advertising and promotional activities. The enhanced suite, called Brand Builder, helps the company plan and evaluate the success of individual activities—a free-standing coupon inserted into the Sunday paper, for instance—and measure the combined effect of a number of integrated activities. The Brand Builder suite comprises three related components: It includes a state-of-the-art collaborative tool that lets sales agents, designers, vendors, and retailers plan promotions online. It puts marketing research and information learned about consumers online in real time. And by integrating promotional-spending data with scanner and financial information, it provides a powerful analytical tool. In fact, with this new analytical tool, Kimberly-Clark has moved from relieving a pain point for its retailer customers to making a science of marketing. The company now knows, for example, that the payback for some consumer promotion programs is twice as high as for others intended to produce the same results. With that kind of information, the firm can identify which elements of marketing—coupon value or creative impact, for instance—result in higher returns.

Case Study Ingersoll-Rand:

Focusing on pain points can not only be an effective way to build a successful CRM program but can also get an unsuccessful CRM initiative back on track. That was true for Ingersoll-Rand, the \$10 billion diversified manufacturer.

In 2001, Club Car, the Ingersoll-Rand division that makes motorized golf carts, or "golf cars" as the company calls them, was showing signs of trouble, with revenue beginning to drift downward as an economic downturn hit the golf industry. But management lacked the information needed to diagnose the reasons for the slowing sales. Individual representatives and order managers used their own idiosyncratic processes for dealing with customers. Sales forecasts were made informally using guesswork and rudimentary spreadsheets, and the sales force had little influence over product customization.

Realizing it needed much better information, Ingersoll-Rand rushed to roll out a broad CRM system that was supposed to incorporate everything from lead evaluation to proposal generation and from product configuration to order entry. But the effort proved too much for the organization to digest. Club Car's managers weren't convinced of the ultimate benefits. After spending more than \$2 million and completing a first round of user testing, the company discovered that the system wasn't delivering the anticipated productivity gains and reporting capabilities. In fact, the system would dramatically increase the administrative workload of the field sales representatives instead of freeing them to spend more time with customers. The unit's president had the forethought to halt the effort and made the organization back up and refine its goals. Club Car's management team took a fresh look at the key processes in its customer relationship cycle and refocused its CRM initiative on the two deepest pain points: forecasting sales and taking orders. Today, just two years after the CRM effort was relaunched, Club Car has successfully

automated its sales operation, significantly improving both customer service and business decision making. By more directly involving the sales force in the redesign of the system, carefully parsing down the data and processes it encompassed, and improving the underlying technology, the company eliminated many of the CRM system's original drawbacks. Sales representatives use the new system at customer's sites to modify the car with them, and for the first time, the representative can see the financial implications of different configurations before setting price and delivery date. The order information the representative collects is automatically combined with general industry data on golf cart demand and equipment replacement cycle to generate reliable sales forecasts. That, in turn, has led to smoother, more predictable manufacturing schedules.

The above cases bring the key Problems before the auto-component industry:

1. Why were companies struggling to serve customer with same set up? What changed after their in depth understanding of CRM solutions?(Issue of IT awareness)
2. Why were some companies struggling with CRM solutions? What is that needs to be done differently in terms integrated data flow across supply chain? (Effective Implementation)
3. What is a better option of implementing CRM ?(Study implementation framework)

Chapter Four: Research Methodology

4.1 Research Design

The method that was selected for this study was based on qualitative as well as quantitative methods. Basically, the quantitative approach pursues facts and is employed when researchers desire to acquire statistical truth. According to Trochim (2001), quantitative research assumes that the social environment has objective reality that is relatively constant across time and setting, while qualitative research assumes that individual construct reality in the form of meaning and interpretation, and that the construction tends to be transitory and situational.

The dominant methodology in the quantitative approach is to describe and explain features of the objective reality by collecting numerical data on observable behavior of samples and by subjecting these data to statistical analysis. According to Smith (1983), "neutral, scientific language" must be used in quantitative research in pursuing exact facts. This means that the research itself must be expressed by universally acceptable digits. In this approach, in order to make generalizability, objectivity of the research is emphasized by using neutral scientific language. On the other hand, the qualitative approach aims to discover meaning and interpretation by studying cases intensively in natural settings and by subjecting the resulting data to analytic induction. This study aims to explore Effectiveness of CRM Solutions in Increasing the Efficiency of Supply Chain with Special Reference to Indian Auto-component Industries. Mixed method was deemed more appropriate for this study as compared to other methods. Mixed method studies use constructivist perspective or advocacy/participatory perspective, or both, and use narrative, phenomenological, grounded theory studies, or case

study a strategic inquiry. In this approach, research facts and researcher's value judgment or interpretation are inseparable. Thus the researcher becomes an insider to the research.

Survey research is the method of gathering data from respondents thought to be representative of some population, using an instrument composed of closed structure or open-ended items (questions). It is one of the most dominant forms of data collection in the social sciences, providing for efficient collection of data over broad populations, amenable to self-administration, administration in person, by telephone, via mail and over the Internet.

There are many advantages that have been identified in the use of the survey method. According to Babbie (2001), the advantages include:

1. One can collect a large amount of data in a fairly short time.
2. Surveys are easier and less expensive than other forms of data collection.
3. Questionnaires can be used to research almost any aspect of human perception regarding the variable under study.
4. They can be easily used in field settings.

How can this process better serve the customer? Firms must select the right technology to drive the improved process, provide the best data to the employee, and be easy enough to operate that users won't balk. It's a strategy used to learn more about customer's needs and behaviour in order to develop stronger relationships with them. Good customer relationships are at the heart of business success. There are many technological components to CRM, but thinking about CRM in primarily technological terms is a critical mistake. The more useful way to think about CRM is as a process that will help bring together pieces of information about customers, sales, marketing effectiveness, responsiveness and market trends.

If customer relationships are the heart of business success, then CRM is the valve that pumps a company's life blood. As such, CRM is being utilized to help businesses use people, processes, and technology to gain insight into the behaviour and value of customers. This insight allows for improved customer service, increased call centre efficiency, added cross-sell and up-sell opportunities, improved closure rate, streamlined sales and marketing processes, improved customer profiling and targeting, reduced costs, and increased share of customer and overall profitability. This sounds like a panacea, but CRM is not without its challenges. For CRM to be truly effective, an organization must convince its staff that change is good and that CRM will benefit them. Then it must analyze its business processes to decide which need to be reengineered and how best to go about it. Next is to decide what kind of customer information is relevant and how it will be used. A team of carefully selected key stakeholders must choose the right technology to automate what it is that needs to be automated. This process, depending upon the size of the company and the breadth of data, can take anywhere from a few weeks to a year or more. And although some firms are using Web-based CRM technologies for only hundreds of dollars per month per user, large companies may spend millions to purchase, install, and customize the technology required to support their CRM initiative. Keeping the Business perspective in mind we selected following key parameters to judge the effectiveness of CRM solutions.

4.2 Following Performance measures were identified for Effectiveness of Business Solutions in CRM Space.

1. Effective Response to customer queries
2. Online Order Booking
3. Near Accurate Response To Customer Requirement in Term Of Delivery And service

4. Flow Of Customer Requirement Across The Supply Chain / Service
5. Customer Feedback And Information Across The Supply Chain / Service

4.3 Why these Performance parameters are selected? These parameters are identified in the detail literature review and selected for following reasons.

4.3.1 Effective Response to Customer Queries

This parameter gave insight into effectively using CRM Business solution to answer customer queries as well as issue.

4.3.2 Online Order Booking

This parameter was used to measure effectiveness of the net based technology to interactively guide the customer to book order online.

4.3.3 Near Accurate Response to Customer Requirement in Terms of Delivery and Service

This parameter was used to judge the application of Business solution to respond to customer need of on time delivery and prompt service.

4.3.4 Flow Of Customer Requirement Across the Supply Chain /Service

This was used to judge the information flow of customer preference and requirement across the supply chain upto the end supplier.

4.3.5 Customer Feedback and Information Across the Supply Chain /Service

This was used for the last part of customer feedback and action taken to address the same in all future engagement.

4.4 Sample Design

4.4.1 Defining the Target population: Our objective of study was to find the impact and awareness of CRM solutions in Indian Autocomponent Industry. With this regard we selected

companies in and around Pune. Pune is called as Detroit of east and hosts majority of Auto and Auto-component companies in India.

4.4.2 Determine Sampling Frame: The sampling frame was tier one autocomponent suppliers to OEM. These directly supply to original manufacturers mostly in Just in sequence.

4.4.3 Selection of Sampling Technique: For the purpose of the study, purposive sampling, a form of non-probability sampling, was used. In purposive sampling, the researcher sample with a purpose in mind from one or more specific and predefined group, believed to be representative of the larger population of interest. One of the benefits of purposive sampling is that it can be very useful for situations in which the researcher wants to reach a targeted group that otherwise might not be readily available. Purposive sampling is used to gather in-depth interview data from the above participants (Trochim 2001). Researchers conducted in-depth interviews with the organizations with above parameters.

4.4.4 Determine Sample Size: We selected of thirty three companies in and around Pune to understand the issue of suitability of available package & awareness about functionalities of CRM application. This was based on the target group of companies in mind that is the autocomponent companies in and around Pune which are direct suppliers to OEM. We have covered almost 90% of autocomponent companies in this region.

4.4.5 Execution of Sampling Process: Questionnaire was be distributed with top management of thirty three companies to understand the issue of suitability of available package & awareness about functionalities of CRM application.

4.6 Questionnaire Design Process: We followed following detail process to design the questionnaire. We first specified the information needed on finding firms acceptability and

awareness of CRM solutions. We then proceeded to decide on interviewing questions and their content in following steps.

4.6.1 Determine the Content of Individual Questions

- Is the Question necessary
- Are Several Questions needed instead of one

4.6.2 Overcoming Inability to Answer

- Is the Respondent Informed
- Can the Respondent Remember

4.6.3 Overcoming Unwillingness to Answer

- Effort Required of the Respondents
- Sensitive Issues
- Legitimate Purpose

4.6.4 Choosing Question Structure

- Unstructured Questions
- Structured Questions

4.6.5 Choosing Question Wording

- Define the Issue
- Use Ordinary Words
- Use Unambiguous Words

4.6 Data Collection

Qualitative and quantitative method were used to understand the issue of suitability of available package & awareness about functionalities of CRM application. Qualitative and quantitative research assume that individual construct reality in the form of meaning and

interpretation, and that the constructions tend to be transitory and situational. The Qualitative and quantitative approaches aim to discover meaning and interpretation by studying cases intensively in natural settings and by subjecting the resulting data to analytic induction (Trochim 2001).

Qualitative and quantitative studies use constructivist perspective or advocacy/participatory perspective, or both, and use narrative, phenomenology, grounded theory studies, or case study as strategies of inquiry. In this approach, researcher facts and researcher's value judgment or interpretation are inseparable. Although researchers focused the research on standard-based strategies, the researcher approached the study in an exploratory manner by maintaining openness to what emerged from the data in the context of the Haitian marketing system (Gubrium & Holteim, 2000). For example, after collecting initial questionnaire data, it became clear that the researcher needed to add some questions to the questionnaire guide to address salient issues/themes that were playing out in the organization's strategies. The researcher began the initial data collection by searching relevant literature and distribution of closed-ended questionnaire. The purpose of the closed-ended questionnaire was to do quantitative data analysis (T-test).

4.6 Reliability

In evaluating studies, several methodological concerns emerge. Perhaps most important are reliability and validity. Reliability assessment is a core component of marketing research and can be incorporated easily into direct observation for determining optimal level of performance. However, only 48% of the studies (excluding those using computerized assessment) reported reliability measures on the comparison assessment. Results were worse for assessing the social importance of the effect (28% reporting reliability), the social significance

of the goal (4% reporting reliability), and validation of the appropriateness of procedure (8% reporting reliability). Several procedures have been used that can provide reliability of the questionnaire measurement method including test-retest, odd-even, Kendall's coefficient, Pearson r coefficient, and the equivalent-form method.

4.7 Validity

Social validation procedures are valid to the extent that they measure what they claim to measure. It is critical that good internal and external validity be achieved for social validation procedures. The external validity of the assessment procedure reviewed here is questionable. The dimension researchers believe they are measuring may have little relation to what is actually being measured and that face validity is inadequate as the sole criterion for evaluating the validity of an assessment device. One way to achieve validity would be to have the social validation assessment developed or reviewed by a panel of "expert" or judge who are not involved directly in the research. Another method would be to have a social validation assessment of the social validation instrument. For instance, after responding to a questionnaire, rater would respond to a second questionnaire that told them the purpose of the first questionnaire and asked them to rate how well they thought the question assessed the purpose. In addition, researchers need to be aware of halo effect, bias toward leniency or severity, central tendency response, and position or proximity bias of rater, which may artificially enhance the reliability of measurement without improving response accuracy or validity. We often try to do it in a way that enable us to make statement about people at large. How well we can do this is referred to as study's generalizability. A study that readily allow its finding to generalize to the population at large has high external validity. To the degree that we are successful in eliminating confounding variables within the study itself is referred to as internal

validity. External and internal validity are not all-or-none, black-and-white, present-or-absent dimension of an experimental design. Validity varies along a continuum from low to high.

One major source of confounding arises from non-random patterns in the membership of participants in the study, or within groups in the study. This can affect internal and external validity in a variety of ways, none of which are necessarily predictable. It is often only after doing a great deal of work that we discover that some glitch in our procedure or some oversight has rendered our results uninterpretable.

4.9 Ethical Issues

Ethical issues may arise as to confidentiality and data protection. Participants were briefed and were allowed to withdraw their involvement at any stage, data protection and usage were subject to the relevant legislation and guidelines with guaranteed no third party involvement. All interviews were conducted under strict confidentiality and remain informal.

4.8 Confidentiality

It was for sure that the identity of all participants remained confidential as well as the data set throughout the study. The researcher attempted to maintain his anonymity from the participants in the study by using a facilitator not involved in the study to assist with interview survey by keeping all information from the study for at least three years.

4.9 Assumptions & Limitation

It was also assumed that the data source that used within the studies were reliable and having valid data, the participants were purposefully selected from the top management. There were certain limitations to this study because it was focused on one single group that has a limited amount of samples to calculate, this kind of study can be conducted on an international level and by doing so we will expand the cultural and geographical factors in the research.

Chapter Five: Data Analysis and Hypothesis Testing.

5.1 Pilot Phase

A part of study, initial scanning of about 55 Companies was done. The initial analysis showed that only about 20 % companies analyzed had any awareness of CRM or had ventured into CRM implementation.

5.2 Final Phase

After initial study about 33 companies are short listed with a focus on evaluating CRM effectiveness in general and CRM application in Auto-component sector in which author is presently working.

A detailed rating was arrived at for each of the five parameters

1. Effective Response to Customer Query .
2. Online Order Booking.
3. Near Accurate Response to Customer Requirement in Term of Delivery and service.
4. Flow of Customer Requirement Across the supply Chain/ service.
5. Customer Feedback and information Across the supply Chain/ service.

Based on detailed literature survey we confirmed that autocomponent companies to have effective CRM solutions to increase the efficiency of supply chain should score positive high on all above factors. We assigned answer as Yes and a positive score of 10 for positive high on all above factors..We then proceeded to find the deviation from expected high positive score to observed to find if the CRM solutions were effective.We used the T test for the Hypothesis testing.

5.3 The T-Test

Introduction: One goal of social science research is to accurately measure the social world, to document the level of different features of society. So we are concerned with the measurement of phenomena and strive to specify the level of difference in voting behaviour, household income, or feeling of self-efficacy. However, we often want to use the measurement in evaluating specific hypotheses about the difference. There are two types of T-test

- The one-sample t-test, in which the level of outcome for a group is compared to a known standard.
- The two-sample t-test, where the outcome level of two groups are compared to each other (Keefe, 2000).

5.4 About T Test

The t-test was developed by W. S. Gossett, a statistician employed at the Guinness brewery. However, because the brewery did not allow employees to publish their research, Gossett's work on the t-test appears under the name "Student" (and the t-test is sometimes referred to as "Student's t-test.") Gossett was a chemist and was responsible for developing procedures for ensuring the similarity of batches of Guinness. The t-test was developed as a way of measuring how closely the yeast content of a particular batch of beer corresponded to the brewery's standard.

But the t-test has applications well beyond the realm of quality beer. Applied to the social world, the same kind of question addressed by the t-test in the brewery (how different is a particular batch of beer from the desired standard?) can be useful in the social world. How

different are the SAT core of political science undergraduate of a particular university from the SAT core of the average SAT core of the university' undergraduate population?

And the same statistical methodology that compare a particular batch of beer to a standard can be used to compare how different any two batches are from each other. The test can be used to compare the yeast content of two kegs of beer brewed at separate times. Extending this into the realm of social phenomena, we can use this methodology to address questions such as whether SAT preparation courses improve test scores or whether African Americans continue to face discrimination in the housing market. One of the advantages of the t-test is that it can be applied to a relatively small number of cases. It was specifically designed to evaluate statistical differences for samples of 30 or less. In our case all of the samples were in the above range so we chose One-sample T-Test.

5.5 About One Sample T-Test :

To reiterate, the one-sample t-test compares the mean score of a sample to a known value, usually the population mean (the average for the outcome of some population of interest). The basic idea of the test is a comparison of the average of the sample (observed average) and the population (expected average), with an adjustment for the number of cases in the sample and the standard deviation of the average. Working through an example can help to highlight the issue involved and demonstrate how to conduct a t-test using actual data.

5.6 One-Sample T-Test

To calculate a one-sample t-test, we did follow the following steps: Following Steps and data was base was used for the hypothesis testing for various factors affecting the effectiveness of CRM solution in increasing the Efficiency of Supply Chain in auto-component industry.

Step # 1: Hypothesis

H0 Null Hypothesis: CRM solution are effective in increasing the Efficiency of supply Chain with special reference to Indian Auto-component Industries.

Alternative Hypothesis: CRM solution are not effective in increasing the Efficiency of supply Chain with special reference to Indian Auto-component Industries.

Based on our literature survey we tested the effectiveness using parameters referred in 5.2 on scale of 10. We used separate hypothesis testing for parameters and then concluded based on the each result and combination. We assigned answer as Yes and a positive score of 10 for positive high on all above factors. We then proceeded to find the deviation from expected high positive score to observed to find if the CRM solutions were effective. We used the T test for the Hypothesis testing.

Step # 2: Calculate Test Statistic

Calculation of the test statistic require four component :

1. The average of the sample (observed average)
2. The population average or other known value (expected average)
3. The standard deviation of the average
4. The number of observation. With these four pieces of information, we calculated the

following statistic, t:

5. Step # 3: Use This Value to Determine P-Value

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance.

5.7 Reference data for Hypothesis testing:

Figure 3- Availability of CRM applications

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	1	28	4	45

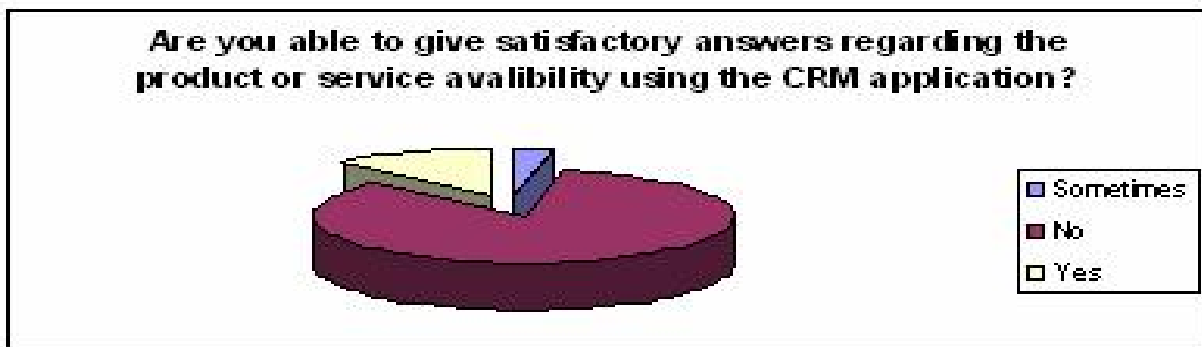


Figure 4- Data accuracy in CRM applications

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	2	30	1	20



Figure 5-Data mismatch in CRM applications.

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	3	28	1	25



Figure 6 Customer complaints.

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	2	28	3	40

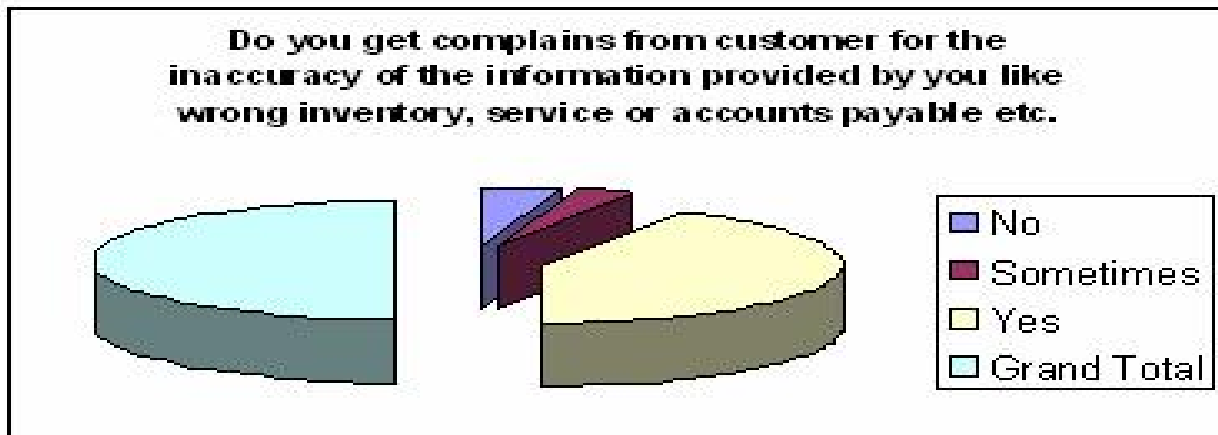


Figure 7-Online Order Booking.

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	1	30	1	15

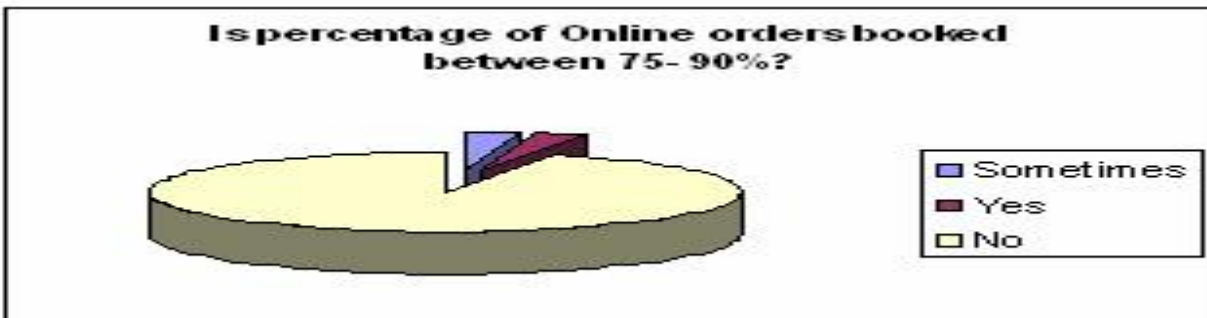


Figure 8- Product Service.

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	0	29	4	40

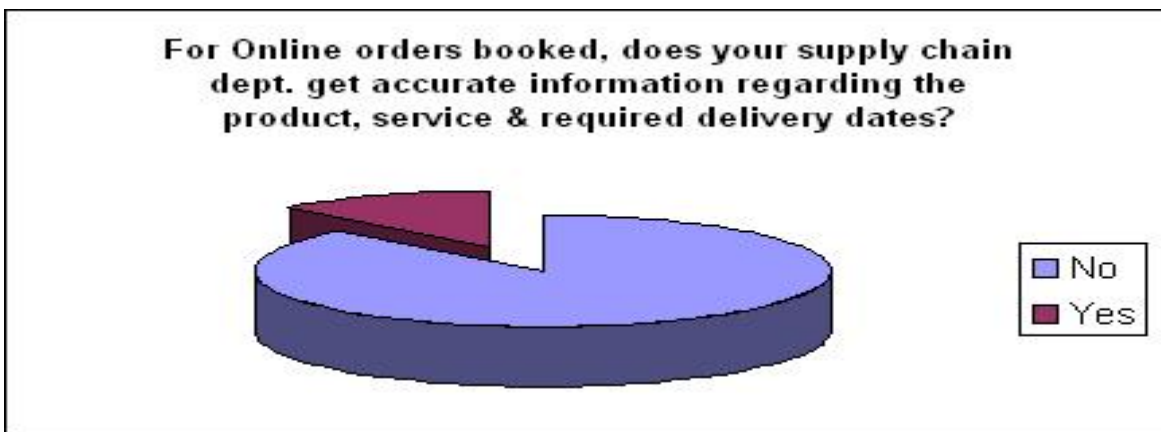


Figure 9- Customer service and online orders.

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	0	29	4	40



Figure 10-User friendliness.

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies	0	29	4	40

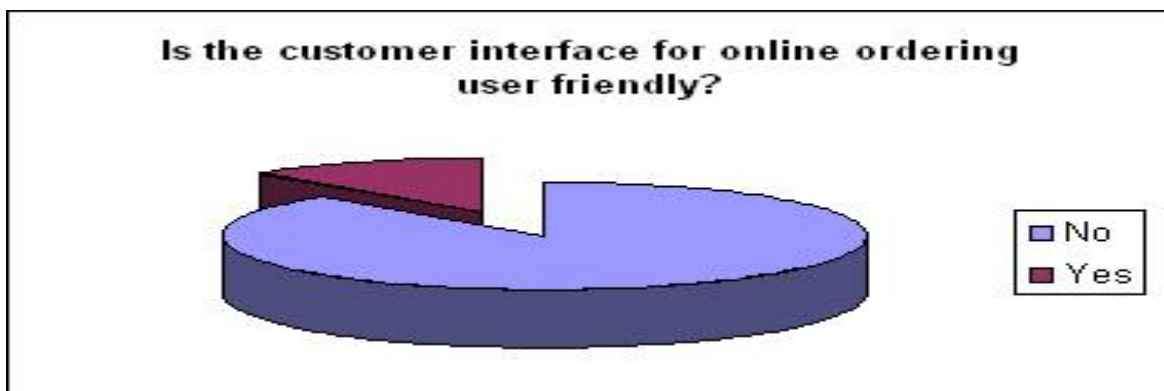
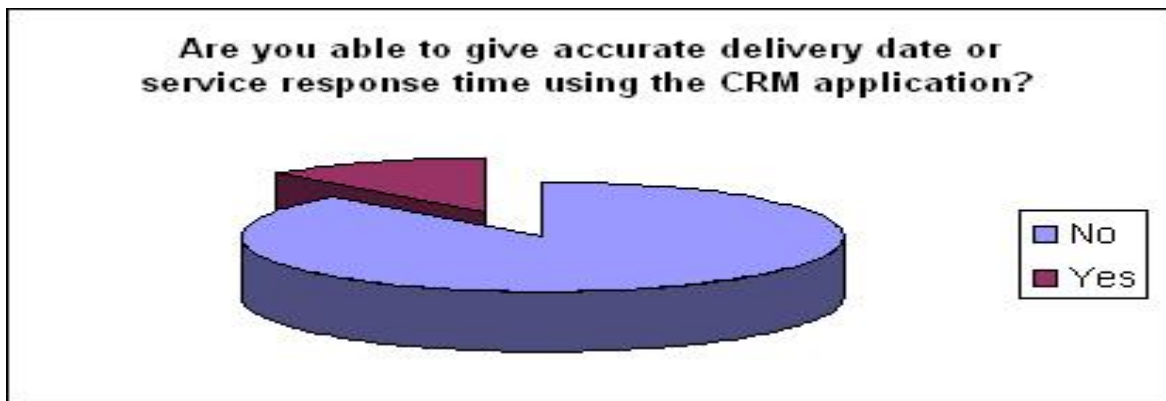


Figure 11- Delivery and accurate response time.

	Answers			
	Sometimes(5)	No(0)	Yes(10)	Score
Count of Name of the Companies		29	4	40



Hypothesis Testing:

Using above data we now test hypothesis for each set of factors as follows:

The first hypothesis is

H01 Null Hypothesis : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 on availability of CRM applications indicating high availability of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in availability of CRM applications indicating there is no high availability of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 1.363636
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 3.3709
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 1 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	1.363636	10	33
Standard Deviation	3.3709		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 2 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-8.636
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	3.3709
T	2.6009
p Value	0.006980
Probability %	0.6980

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (2.6009). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of 0.006980. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of 0.006980 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at the 0.6980 % probability Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in availability of CRM applications indicating high availability of CRM applications. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in availability of CRM applications indicating there is low availability of CRM applications.

. The second hypothesis is

H02 Null Hypothesis : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting accurate data from CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting accurate data from CRM applications.

We use the formula based on above data

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = .6606
2. Expected average = 10
3. Standard deviation of the sample average = 2.0557
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 3 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	.6606	10	33
Standard Deviation	2.0557		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 4 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	9.3394
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	2.0577
T	4.6078
p Value	0.000031
Probability %	.0031

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (4.6078). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .000031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at the only .0031 % probability Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting accurate data from CRM applications. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting accurate data from CRM applications.

H03 Null Hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India have a score of 10 on data mismatch in CRM applications due to high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have a score of 10 on data mismatch in CRM applications due to low usage of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = .7575
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 2.2083
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 5 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	.7575	10	33
Standard Deviation	2.2083		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 6 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-9.2425
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	2.2083
T	4.2490
p Value	0.000087
Probability %	0.0087

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (4.2490). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of 0.000087. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of 0.000087 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at the only 0.0087% probability of Autocomponent companies in India have a score of 10 on data mismatch in CRM applications due to high usage of CRM applications. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have a score of 10 on data mismatch in CRM applications due to low usage of CRM applications.

H04 Null Hypothesis : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting customer complaints from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting customer complaints from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 1.2121
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 3.0695
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 7 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	1.2121	10	33
Standard Deviation	3.0695		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 8 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-8.7879
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	3.0695
T	2.9065
p Value	0.0031
Probability %	.31

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (2.9065). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .0031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at there is only .31 % probability of Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting customer complaints from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting customer complaints from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

H05 Null Hypothesis : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting Online Order Booking from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting Online Order Booking from CRM applications indicating no high usage of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 0.4545
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 1.9217
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 9 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	0.4545	10	33
Standard Deviation	1.9217		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 10 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-9.5455
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
standard Deviation	1.9217
T	5.0428
p Value	0.0031
Probability %	.31

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (5.0428). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .0031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at there is only .31 % probability of Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting Online Order Booking from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications..Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting Online Order Booking from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

H06 Null Hypothesis : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting Online information on product service related to order booking and deliveries from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting Online information on product service related to order booking and deliveries from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 1.2121
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 3.0695
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 11 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	1.2121	10	33
Standard Deviation	3.0695		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 12 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-8.7879
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	3.0695
T	2.9065
p Value	0.0031
Probability %	.31

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (2.9065). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .0031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at the only .31 % probability of Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting customer complaints from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting Online information on product service related to order booking and deliveries from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

H07 Null Hypothesis : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting Online information on order confirmation from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting Online information on order confirmation from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

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With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 1.2121
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 3.0695
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 13 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	1.2121	10	33
Standard Deviation	3.0695		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 14 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-8.7879
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	3.0695
T	2.9065
p Value	0.0031
Probability %	.31

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (2.9065). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .0031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at the only .31 % probability of : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 in getting Online information on order confirmation from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 in getting Online information on order confirmation from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

H08 Null Hypothesis : Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 on customer friendly CRM interface for online information from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 on customer friendly CRM interface for online information from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 1.2121
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 3.0695
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 15 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	1.2121	10	33
Standard Deviation	3.0695		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 16 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-8.7879
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	3.0695
T	2.9065
p Value	0.0031
Probability %	.31

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (2.9065). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .0031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at there is only .31 % probability of Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 on customer friendly CRM interface for online information from CRM applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 on customer friendly CRM interface indicating user friendly customer interface for online information from CRM applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

H09 Null Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 on getting customer complaints on CRM applications applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 on getting customer complaints on CRM applications applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 1.2121
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 3.0695
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 17 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	1.2121	10	33
Standard Deviation	3.0695		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 18 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-8.7879
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	3.0695
T	2.9065
p Value	0.0031
Probability %	.31

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (2.9065). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .0031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at there is only .31 % probability of Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 on customer getting customer complaints on CRM applications applications indicating high usage of CRM applications...Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 on customer getting customer complaints on CRM applications applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

H10 Null Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 on ability to get accurate delivery date and response time using CRM applications applications indicating high usage of CRM applications.

Alternative Hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 on ability to get accurate delivery date and response time using CRM applications applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

With this example, the components are as follows :

1. Sample average = 1.2121
2. Expected average = 10
3. SD of the sample average = 3.0695
4. Number of observations = 33

Table 19 Standard Deviation for the observed and expected Values

	Average of Observed	Average of Expected	Sample
	1.2121	10	33
Standard Deviation	3.0695		

We use the formula based on above data

Table 20 Analysis based on standard deviation calculated.

With the four pieces of information, we calculate the following statistic, t:

$$t = \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})}{SD_{\text{observed}} \times \sqrt{(\text{number of observations in sample} / \text{number of observations} - 1)}}$$

Observed-expected	-8.7879
qr rt (No of Observation /No of observation -1)	0.985
tandard Deviation	3.0695
T	2.9065
p Value	0.0031
Probability %	.31

Having calculated the t-statistic; compare the t-value with a standard table of t-value to determine whether the t-statistic reaches the threshold of statistical significance. Plugging in the value of t (2.9065). And n (number of cases) = 33 Yield a p-value of .0031. We require p-value of .05 or less in order to reject the null hypothesis. With a value of .0031 is less than .05 hence we reject the null hypothesis at the only .31 % probability of Autocomponent companies in India have score of 10 on ability to get accurate delivery date and response time using CRM applications applications indicating high usage of CRM applications. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis: Autocomponent companies in India do not have score of 10 on ability to get accurate delivery date and response time using CRM applications applications indicating low usage of CRM applications.

We summarise our findings in following table:

T Test Hypothesis Test for the Present Research

H0 Null Hypothesis: CRM solution are effective in increasing the Efficiency of supply Chain with special reference to Indian Auto-component Industries.

Alternative Hypothesis: CRM solution are not effective in increasing the Efficiency of supply Chain with special reference to Indian Auto-component Industries.

The Results are as Follow :

Table 21 Questionnaire for analysing effectiveness of Business solutions.

Questions	OBSERVED	EXPECTED	T Value	Probability
Are you able to give satisfactory answer regarding the product or service availability using the CRM application?	45	330	2.6009	0.006980
Do you often cross check with other application to confirm data in your CRM application?	20	330	4.6078	0.000031
Does your IT dept. get complaint of data mismatch or interface failure for the customer data?	25	330	4.2490	0.000087

Questions	OBSERVED	EXPECTED	T Value	Probability
Do you get complain from customer for the accuracy of the information provided by you like wrong inventory, service or account payable etc.	40	330	2.9065	0.003292
What is percentage of Online order booked?	15	330	5.0428	0.000009
For Online order booked, does your supply chain dept. get accurate information regarding the product, service & required delivery date ?	40	330	2.9065	0.003292
Do you often call your customer to confirm the order detail once you receive an online order?	40	330	2.9065	0.003292
Is the customer interface for online ordering user friendly?	40	330	2.9065	0.003292

Questions	OBSERVED	EXPECTED	T Value	Probability
9. Do you often get complaint regarding the application for online ordering?	40	330	2.9065	0.003292
Are you able to give accurate delivery date or service response time using the CRM application?	40	330	2.9065	0.003292

To accept our main hypothesis *H0 Null Hypothesis*: CRM solution are effective in increasing the Efficiency of supply Chain with special reference to Indian Auto-component Industries, it is essential to accept all the hypothesis related to parameters that make the supply chain effective. From above table it is clear that none of the above hypothesis is accepted. Hence we reject our hypothesis : CRM solution are effective in increasing the Efficiency of supply Chain with special reference to Indian Auto-component Industries. Therefore, we accept alternate hypothesis i CRM solution are not effective in increasing the Efficiency of supply Chain with special reference to Indian Auto-component Industries.

FINDING #1

Most of auto-component companies are not effective in using CRM applications to increase their efficiency of supply chain. The author had short listed following areas

- Effective Response to customer queries.
- Online Order Booking.
- Near accurate response to Customer requirement in terms of delivery and service.
- Flow of customer requirement across the supply chain /Service.
- Customer feedback and information across the supply Chain /Service.

It is clear that from data above that in all areas auto-component companies score poorly or almost negligible. Clearly showing that CRM applications are not very effective in today's Autocomponent Industry scenario.

FINDING #2

The main reason for poor show of CRM applications can be attributed to lack of knowledge or awareness of these applications in the auto-component industry. It was surprising for the author to find that there was a basic lack of IT solutions awareness in all the companies surveyed. Industry will not be able to take the full advantage of CRM applications in case they are really ignorant of the solution. Customer relationship management systems track customers in every interaction they have with a company, regardless of the mode of communication, to better anticipate their needs and improve service.

FINDING #3

There are negligible companies which are better off on CRM initiatives as compared to the CRM and CRM implementation. Customer relationship management system tracks customer inventory interaction they have with a company, regardless of the mode of communication, to better anticipate their needs and improve service. Reason for poor CRM implementations can be attributed to reason that it is exceedingly hard to track return on investment for CRM projects. There are already 500 CRM tools commercially available today and a huge amount of them are anaemic. To their credit, most offer a good suite of capabilities. But the challenge is to identify the right one to fit the business needs.

FINDING #4

Few companies have good initiatives in CRM and CRM areas. Ideally to take full benefit of CRM and CRM, both should be integrated.

FINDING #5

A better understanding of CRM in terms of transactional and analytical usage can lead to business gaining advantage over competitors in market place. There are too many new technologies and softwares in market just people are stabilising on ERP. CRM- customer relationship management system is designed to help corporate organisations to attract new customers, negotiate with existing customers and manage on-going contracts. The Internet is making CRM nothing short of revolutionary. Companies and the Internet are transforming most companies' CRM roles from understanding how customers make purchasing decisions to developing differentiated, targeted customer service. It is an opportunity to do CRM very better. Internet medium, or "e-channel," offers business advantage that is almost high-impact

CRM capabilities. The advantages included content that are richer than those associated with traditional channels, in real-time control and additional channels for revenue generation.

In addition, there are better one-to-one marketing relationships, as carriers have access to more individual-level information. The inherent ubiquity of the Internet enables organizations to bring complete knowledge of the customer buying history, psychographic, profitability, service history, etc. to bear on each customer interaction. This provides companies the ability to differentiate their treatment of valued customers and to differentiate themselves in the marketplace. The better the knowledge we have, the better the access to more successful business.

The results of this study are consistent with other studies. For example, Rowley (2004) suggests that CRM systems include online order, e-mail and knowledge bases that can be used to generate customer profiles, and to personalize services. Xu et al. (2002) state that CRM technologies allow the organization to gain an insight into the behaviour of individual customers and, in turn, to target and customize marketing communication and messages. In addition, these tools generate data that support the calculation of customer lifetime value for individual customers. The studies, however, do not specify the key components of the system, nor how such a system can be developed. Boie (2002) outlines a CRM development plan based on the typical system development life-cycle approach, in which he suggests that CRM involves acquisition, analysis and use of knowledge about customers in order to sell more goods or services and to do it more efficiently. Developing such a system builds on an enterprise-wide integration of technologies working together such as data warehouse, website, intranet/extranet, phone support system, accounting, sales, marketing and production. The analytical function may be fulfilled by separate systems, such as decision support systems and expert systems. This approach is vague

on how customer knowledge might be created, because it is not clear as to what technology in practice actually turn customer data into knowledge. A similar approach is suggested by Lee and Hong (2002) to create an organization-wide KM infrastructure. In the model, database, data warehouse, digital library, data mining and online analytical processing (OLAP) are suggested as being the tools to capture and develop knowledge. The model, however, is general to organizational KM rather than specific to customer knowledge creation. Ahn et al. (2003) propose that data mining/analytical tool and a knowledge base should be the function of a CRM system, but did not go further to illustrate how such a system can be developed.

Although how to develop an analytical CRM is far from clear, some explorative research may benefit developing such a system. For example, Choy et al. (2003) report to use case-based reasoning to evaluate and select supplier in order to fulfil the requirement of the key customer in order to retain a good relationship. Boie (2002) based on Well et al.' (1999) argument to suggest that expanding customer data need to include non-transactional information, which is equally, if not more, valuable than the transactional data. Such data may include general inquiries, support call, suggestion, employee/management comment, registration card and complaint.

Conclusion

The CRM systems that have been implemented by many companies are dominated by operational application contact centre, sales and marketing solution with limited customer knowledge gained from the current CRM application. The analytical power of CRM has not been adequately perceived by many organizations. The provision of analytical CRM solution is limited to some large organizations. It is suggested that CRM systems should enhance not only an organization's ability to interact, attract and build one-to-one relationship with customer but

also the ability to gain customer knowledge. Such a system should enable functionality for both internal (existing) and external (prospective) customer knowledge provision. The system will not only provide a panoramic customer view through profiling but also generate customer behaviour patterns and predict future actions. The success of implementing such a system relies on senior manager awareness and support, the solutions provided by the IT industry, but more importantly, organisational change required to create a knowledge-centric organisation.

Chapter Six: Conclusion & Contribution to Knowledge

6.1 Improving SCM Effectiveness Using CRM Solutions In Autocomponent Industry : Finance Perspective.

Traditionally, the managing supply chain using CRM solutions effectively has not been considered the domain of the treasurer. But within the increasingly complex business environment that is the hallmark of globalization, the supply chain trend front and center among the treasurer's concern.

From the perspective of efficient working capital management, the treasurer has ventured interest in the global supply chain. Cash and trade converge into the physical and financial supply chain in the effort to improve working capital efficiency. The financial supply chain, which drive financial settlement, take over where the physical supply chain end. While autocomponent exporter want to receive payment quickly and with certainty, importer want to know with sureness when goods are arriving in order to better manage inventory level and cash position. For the treasurer, cash-flow certainty help to optimize working capital management.

The sharing of information is critical to the cross-border movement of goods, the transfer of title, risk mitigation and timely payment. But the typically large number of supply-chain participants pose challenge to the efficiency around the gathering and sharing of information that facilitate financial settlement. Removing such inefficiency condense transaction's life cycle and enhance working capital efficiency. The treasurer's ability to facilitate the flow of information across the physical and financial supply chain has direct impact on working capital optimization. This brings forth the important point of integrating SCM with CRM for effective sharing of critical information from order to cash point.

From risk management perspective, the global supply chain loom become a major component of the CFO' and treasurer' responsibility. Treasurer accountable for managing growing level of operating risk within the business environment and for complying with increased risk-related regulatory oversight. At the same time, the heightened regulatory emphasis on risk is driving further inefficiencies in the cash conversion cycle. For example, under the 24-hour manifest rule, importer must submit an electronic manifest of goods to verify the validity of ship' cargo. The rule extends the transaction cycle for those companies unable to timely information-reporting requirements. Companies must factor into the cost of doing business the additional expenses associated with such regulation. Further, such requirements underscore how increased concerns around issues of security related to global supply chain activities like the risk of interrupted shipping continues have direct impact to the treasurer and CFO by putting company' reputation at risk.

6.2 Integrating Supply Chains to Enhance Financial Performance of auto-component companies.

To address the challenge while improving working capital efficiency, CFO and treasurer are looking for comprehensive solution that integrate CRM, SRM, cash management, trade settlement and finance, and logistic management. Just like the Internet has played significant role in enabling companies to source supplies from diverse locations, Web-based solution are proving key to managing information cross physical and financial supply chain. One conclusion we can draw from research findings is if companies start working in partnership with third-party logistic management company it will be able to provide them comprehensive, holistic approach across both chain. This relationship with third-party logistic will enable companies to manage information across the physical and financial supply chain for

in overall improvement in the transaction cycle. Such a alliance will offer a wide range of services in addition to classical trade instrument and open account financing option. Import services include HT classification, import and supplier document management, entry management and document creation, duty minimization, post entry reconciliation, and purchase order management and CRM information. Export services include ECCN classification, order screening, license control and management, shipment and payment document preparation, Bolero and TradeCard services, and export finance. The solution drive improved inventory management, reduced Days to Outgoing, and risk compliance. Information management is a critical component of an integrated approach.

6.3 Enhancing Financial Supply Chain Efficiency of auto-component companies.

The other area of cash cycle in auto-component companies is accounts payable. The companies which have integrated its automated payable solution across the end-to-end transaction have benefited in terms of supporting client in efficient bill-to-merchant management through payable financing solution such as open account financing. In addition, research concludes that one way to enhance efficiency of cash cycle is to use an E-P payable solution that can provide end-to-end automation of the core functions of the financial settlement process, including the receipt, validation, and routing of the invoice, dispute management, invoice approval, payment and posting.

Aligning Solutions With Evolving client Requirements

The primary responsibility for the global supply chain is related to risk management and working capital optimization. It is a key reliance on the shoulders of the treasurer. Market requirements evolve to mirror the convergence of the end-to-end, client increasingly seek solutions that move beyond historical product silos. Organisations must take client-centric

approach when developing innovative, technology-based solutions that support treasury's effort to add value across the global supply chain.

The agility of autocomponent company Order To Cash cycle provides indicator of operational efficiency, customer satisfaction and cost optimization. Poor management of Order to cash activities can have detrimental effect on key account receivable (AR) metric like Days Sales Outstanding (DSO). Large number of operational problems faced by autocomponent distributor like order fulfillment error, high cost of dispute resolution and ineffective collection process can be attributed to poorly managed Order to Cash process.

The present research shows that complexity of the Order to cash cycle stems from the fact that different functions of the cycle are managed by different departments of the distribution enterprise. The proliferation of disparate IT data sources make it difficult to control and monitor the workflow and information flow throughout the Order To Cash Cycle. In addition to this, organisations have to negotiate and manage large number of global and local contracts with varying terms and conditions. All these factors often force organisations to deal with inefficiencies like invalid credit limit, unauthorized discounts and dynamic 3-way match price incidences. Greater visibility into Order To Cash cycle with effective use of CRM tools can help organisations to:

1. Increase order fulfillment accuracy
2. Reduce transaction cost
3. Better insight into profitable and unprofitable customer
4. Minimize the required documentation for regulatory compliance (like SOX or Uniform Unclaimed Property Act)
5. Reduce cost associated with invoice and billing disputes

6. The online collection process

The success of the chain depends on many things. How well and how clearly the key player in the chain has defined what he is doing and why he is doing it that way. For a supplier located within the chain, this is important. There is no one standard universal chain. What you are dealing with are multiple, different supply chains and logistic processes and supply chains for each customer. That means developing a flexible, tailored logistic solution to meet the requirements of each customer.

Supply chains work on pull processes. This applies whether the product is made to stock or made to order. Each chain is really a series of buyer and seller of product and service. That means that each link participant has his own objective, and sometime conflicting and objectives, which can work against supply chain effectiveness. The diversity of participants in the chain can create complex and long processes. Companies buy and sell and participate in the supply chain for their own reasons. This is an important and sometime overlooked fundamental of developing a working logistic process, both for the entire chain and for each link in the chain. There must be collaboration between and among various buyer and seller. Think of the supply chain as a relay race with good speed by each runner and great handoff and exchange of the baton between runners.

The initial purpose of SCM was to reduce inefficiency in the supply chain. That inefficiency was defined with time and inventory. But that purpose was put on hold in the drive for cost reduction, often focusing on freight. Supply chain management is now transforming into its original purpose. Two key drivers for change are increased velocity for cycle time and inventory. The two are interconnected.

Cycle Time Velocity. Time is not only a financial statement; but it effects. Inventory is not on the monthly P&L; it is on the balance sheet. The point being that gaining needed commitment to reduce cycle time may be difficult because it is not readily identified and measured. It also contributes to customer service paradox. There are numerous financial and non-financial cycle time metrics, for example-on-time customer order delivery, manufacture to order complete, cash conversion cycle and day level outstanding. A good one should be a measure of the length of time for process, especially one that crosses the organization. The cycle time metric should be important to the company. It should recognize a pin point or should add value and competitive advantage for the company.

Key process that crosses the organization is day in inventory that measures the number of days that inventory is held. Day-in-inventory is an important part of the cash conversion cycle. Reducing inventory level and day of inventory improve profit, improve shareholder value and free up needed capital. The example CEO, CFO and shareholder.

This measure is often calculated as $\text{Inventory} / (\text{Cost of Goods Sold} / 365 \text{ Days})$. This method of calculation can be misleading and understate the total inventory in the supply chain. It excludes inventory that is on order and is being manufactured at supplier and inventory that is in-transit. This omission that results in understatement of the total day of inventory and the cash conversion cycle.

Companies realize how critical the time from placement of purchase order on supplier until delivery is on inventory. With Section 404 of Sarbanes Oxley, adding this inbound portion to the calculation is vital for internal control and risk management. Regardless of the technical issue of when title transfers, there is the company commitment and need for the material being ordered and shipped. Including the purchased order at supplier time and the in-transit time give

better picture and understanding of what drive inventory level, day and turn is useful for product lifecycle management (PLM).

This cycle time is total inventory day in the supply chain; and it is consistent with the length and definition of supply chain. The supply chain cycle time runs from the purchase order placed on supplier through to final placement on the store shelf or floor or to the customer's warehouse. Now we can measure the real, total time for inventory and by including the inbound side where the clock actually starts to tick on inventory.

Studies have shown that manufacturers and wholesalers have over 60 days of inventory and that retailers have over 90 days of inventory capital tied up. The above time does not include the entire inbound inventory in the supply chain. Real supply chain inventory is likely 25% higher. This is a very significant amount of capital tied up in inventory.

Inventory Velocity and Yield Management. Inventory is directly affected by time. Increased time adds to uncertainty and requires incredible demand management. For Organisations, this is illustrated with yield management. Yield management is applicable in supply chain management when inventory is viewed as the supply whose yield is to be maximized. Inventory is key to success for Auto-component manufacturer, wholesaler and distributor. Having the right inventory is also difficult and challenging. Inefficient inventory means lost opportunities. Too much inventory means markdown - and reduced profit - to sell it. Firms working on thin margins especially feel such pain.

In case of auto components where cycle time for production is very small we suggest to practice a form of yield management by balancing the timing and value from the service contracting period through peak season when prices may be at premium regardless of pricing and into a clearance season where price reductions are given to freight forwarders to fill ships.

Many items, retailers know, enjoy short shelf life relative to demand to the price customer are willing to pay. Sale promotion, discount and markdown are almost common practice to draw customer. Firm that are in dynamic, volatile business, such as fashion and related, know the impact of short product life cycle and pricing decision on the bottom line.

The operation research approach determine the "optimal" markdown(). But this is somewhat of a after-the-fact approach. It does not address the underlying problem of demand planning and uncertainty and how to mitigate it. The length of the inbound supply chain has increased significantly with global sourcing. Longer chains have longer time to produce and deliver product from supplier.

This yield management driver realize inventory velocity with its focus on applying product and not on placing it to customer or in store. It puts the focus where it belongs, at the beginning of the supply chain where product originates. Firm can better turn inventory from purchase order into cash. Inventory that is in long transit, inventory that is in warehouse and inventory that is on store shelves and floor does not increase in value with age. Inventory goes stale and lose value. It loses the window of opportunity. The only solution then left is price reduction.

Traditional procurement approaches focus on product price does traditional logistic approaches that focus on freight price. The result of the e-pricing efficiency approaches is to place price before inventory requirement by treating the product supply as two discrete events. They create discord in the development of an effective supply chain that can minimize time, inventory and cost while maximizing service and profit. The dual-price approach hinders the development of inventory management that supplier to create yield management benefit of supply chain management by focusing on having the right inventory at the right quantity at the

right place and at the right time. And the place to implement that is at the supply origin with the supplier.

Product and freight pricing emphasis do not recognize yield management. They do not take yield management from being an analytical tool to being part of the supply chain in practice and process. The impact is to trade-off product and freight price for markdown and lower profit.

Incorporating yield management of inventory beginning at the supplier level converts an operational research tool into supply chain operational paradigm to manage the product and its flow. It expands the supply chain focus to supplier management. It creates substantial benefit and competitive advantage. Yield management success requires supplier management in order to bridge between supply chain planning and supply chain execution.

In today's global competitive market, first class product no longer guarantees success in the aggressive battle for market share. To be successful, Auto-component organizations need to increase their productivity and reduce cost. To survive in the present global competitive environment, organizations need to show a heightened awareness to customer's needs. Hence, there is an increased focus on a customer-centric business model and integration of supply chains to enable collaboration between the supply chain partners.

Partner organizations have realized the need to use information technology to transform the way they deal with the supplier and customer and the need for real-time communication between the partners. The Internet provides a great opportunity to automate the supply chain and provide organizations with real-time information across various points in their value chain. It guarantees reduction in cost and improved productivity by identifying process enhancement opportunities.

Supply Chain Management is simply the process of optimizing the delivery of goods, services and information from supplier to customer, balancing supply and demand. Supply chain management is typically viewed to lie between fully integrated firm, where the entire material flow is owned by a single firm. Decision for a supply chain management system are broken into two broad categories, strategic and operational. As the term implies, strategic decisions are made typically over longer time period. The essence of supply chain management is to shift away from business unit such as warehouse or factories to a more hollowed view of the supply chain. Specific hardware changes that helped boost the importance of Supply Chain Management include the shrinking of both the size and cost of each computer. The reduced size of memory chips made for the easy shrinkage of the computer due to the large portion of space that this component takes up. Along with all of these improvements another strange thing happened, the price went down, a new technology became available. The use of the computer to distribute and gather information became affordable to all companies great and small, increased storage capacity allowed companies to gather and hold more information at their fingertips. The other change in Supply Management came in software development, the increased power of computers led software designers to actually create programs like databases and spreadsheets. The ease of use and organized storage of information made new programs appealing to the business world.

The need to store and distribute information became the market niche for companies. The big hurdle to cross was not how to just gather information within your own organization but to also explore outside the borders to gain more cost and time savings with suppliers and customers. The tool that answered this call was the development of the internet and the World Wide Web. This network of computers combined with the new hardware allowed for the

communication of information around the world in seconds. The other thing the internet brings to the table is information that any one could access even from the privacy of their home. The important change here is now you can reach potential supplier and customer very inexpensively. Remember that information is not just for company employees, but the consumer who like to make informed purchase. Enhancement of network and system allow your supplier to solicit you to meet your need, this is different from the old style in which you contact the vendor with a need. With all the legwork being done to provide your company with 'supply' you can concentrate on giving the customer what they want. All this is possible from properly managing your supply chain.

The benefits of a well-conceived CRM strategy are proven and powerful. Managers want to make certain that when implementing such a strategy in a business-to-business environment, they capitalize on CRM's full potential. Several key actions can be taken to help ensure that the benefits are maximized.

First, autocomponent companies need to realign and re-invent their business processes as a part of the implementation process. Relationships are stronger when they result in mutual advantage. Accordingly, an effective CRM strategy embraces customer and channel partners, weaving them into the fabric of daily operations. Adopting such a customer-centric approach means letting go of traditional standards and measures. The new metrics must focus on such issues as how often each customer visits, how effectively customer service problems are solved, and how often they abandon their "shopping cart" and why.

Clearly, order-fulfillment information is of paramount importance to customers. Therefore, the CRM strategy needs to integrate the supply chain and Web applications that plan and control the order-fulfillment process. Customers have a zero-tolerance mindset here. Any

Information related to the delivery or fulfilment of service must be readily available in customer-facing application. Otherwise, autocomponent company's credibility will suffer. Areas of primary concern are available-to-promise date, product and skill set availability, and status of open-problem report. Bear in mind, the fulfilment activities of a customer order will often span enterprise resource planning, warehouse management, and logistic systems. Data from every one of these systems are required to give the customer a true picture of order status.

Finally, successful CRM implementation means using the full range of technology. That range is, indeed, broad. New communication technology connects remote employees with the rest of the enterprise, the Internet expands self-service options, and sophisticated

Telecommunication technology makes possible virtual call-centre operations. Workflow solutions accelerate the delivery of new marketing programs, while integrating the multiple organizations that must contribute to a customer-satisfaction goal. E-mail becomes a proactive method of updating customers, offering new products, and stimulating conversation with key clients.

This Research highlighted a number of areas on which the spotlight must be placed. The important factors not only support the customer idea as well as work better from the organization's point of view.

6.3 The key conclusions of research are:

6.3.1 CRM as application will need more Business education to start effective utilization of these packages.

Companies large and small have rushed to deploy customer relationship management systems, seeking better ways to track and react to their customers' wants and needs. But most haven't been able to take full advantage of CRM--at least not yet. This year, experts

ay, marketer will pick up where technology left off, by more fully using CRM data to support sales force, construct campaign and personalize message to customer and prospect.

Most companies are waking up to the realization that all business is really e-business. That is to say, business of the future must create an online platform that drive internet-based sales, service and marketing activities to be successful, and such success start and end with good customer relationship management.

6.3.2 Very few companies have the basic awareness of CRM Packages.

The main reason for poor show of CRM applications can be attributed to lack of knowledge or awareness of these applications in the industry. It was surprising for the author to find that there was a basic lack of IT solutions awareness in all the companies surveyed. Industry will not be able to take the full advantage of CRM applications in case they are really ignorant of the solution. There are negligible companies which are better off on CRM initiatives as compared to the ERP and SRM implementations.

Customer relationship management systems track customers in every interaction they have with a company, regardless of the mode of communication, to better anticipate their needs and improve service. Ideally to take full benefit of CRM and SRM, both should be integrated. Real value of investment in packaged implementation will not come if we don't

6.3.3 Lack of user friendliness and more focus on SCM solutions seems to be the reason for lack of this readiness.

The reasons for poor success rates in CRM adoption are varied. Over emphasis on SRM that is the supplier side, setting inadequate planning objectives, having inaccurate or

incomplete looks at data, not training employees sufficiently, and biting off more than you can chew typically mire the undertaking. Trying to integrate across too many systems at once will only introduce new tribulations. CRM needs to be equally valued as key application as SRM.

6.3.4 The key to success for CRM Applications lies in increasing awareness about business about the advantages of these applications .

To cater to the digitization challenge of B2B business. In business-to-business (B2B), CRM is all about time. Good CRM data gathering can save time for everyone. Some people avoid storing information in less efficient way -- sticky notes and napkins, for example. And they have access to information from the rest of the organization about the big picture--and that can increase their knowledge of the market as a whole, resulting in an increase in overall effectiveness. Targeted marketing campaign can reduce cost, increase return for companies, and lower prices for B2B customers. Market information can be used to forecast more accurately and thus reduce inventory. All these factors will benefit customer and vendor alike. Similarly, CRM isn't simply about throwing computer on some people's lap. Although the technology is absolutely critical to effectively managing the data needed to perform effective CRM, it is not CRM in and of itself. Technology, both hardware and software, is the tool that make capturing, storing and maximizing valuable customer data possible. It is the science of CRM. It is useful, however, without the art of good relationship.

6.3.5 To take full benefit of CRM applications integrate CRM ,SRM and ERP: Ideally to take full benefit of CRM and SRM, both should be integrated. Real value of investment in packaged implementation will not come if we don't. *Marry CRM with SRM*

6.4 Customer Trust is The Key

Customer want full disclosure, full content and confidentiality. According to a researcher, at one time or another, 94% of consumer have refused to provide personal information when asked for it, and 40% have lied about the data provided on a Web form. Without customer trust, bad information can create problem.

The internet's one-to-one promise still appear to lie in the future, but what will the future be like? Some researcher suggest that the online population will more closely mirror the general population in age and income demographic in the U.S., Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada. Business should ask themselves about the cost of entry into this business, the necessary (product) ingredient, the relevant differentiator and the unmet need of potential customer.

6.5 The E-CRM Approach

A good CRM strategy is to take incremental step to get where you need to be. Systematically develop a thorough understanding of your company's specific situation before making the next CRM move. Autocomponent companies should determine what function can be done by others. With the electronic economy, many traditional companies will need to disintegrate their customer value chain for optimum benefit. In a world where the cost of collaboration and interaction are low, vertical integration driven by anything but customer value cannot be sustained. Not every business can sell online, but every business must bond with its most profitable customer. Thus, an on-going dialog between marketer and their customer is mandatory. In fact, an on-going dialog can enable small business to effectively compete against larger one. Techniques which can foster on-going dialog between marketer and their customer

include CRM software which integrate data from call centre and suggestion line and develop customer profile, personalized message, loyalty program, special offering, personalized web page, quarterly new letter and the formation of customer advisory council. Other techniques might include chat-based online focus group, internet-based conference, E-mail or Web-based customer survey and online customer panel. A business enterprise has to develop e-business and CRM strategies, pitfalls must be avoided. Thus, an organization-wide commitment of resources is required. CRM is a business strategy; not a suite of software and employees may find it difficult to adopt a CRM orientation. Therefore, it is recommended that the company establish pilot CRM tests to demonstrate the financial benefits of improved relationships. CRM should be integrated into all of the functions of a business -- from marketing to collection.

6.6 CRM Is A Journey Not A Destination.

Over the past decade many autocomponent firms have seized on CRM strategies in an attempt to market more products to more people. Customer relationship management (CRM) software targeted to specific industries, long available for larger companies willing to pay for the privilege of customized vertical applications, is starting to become available for small and midsize businesses as well. The promise of vertical CRM solutions is that they can deliver greater value by providing software that is preconfigured to suit the data and processing needs of specific industries, for instance, manufacturing, health care or consumer packaged goods. Companies in those industries and others deal with their customers in very specific ways. Vertical CRM applications aim to mirror those industry business processes right out of the box.

Many industry analysts foresee a promising future for service-based CRM (customer relationship management). According to IDC estimate from May 2001, worldwide revenue from CRM outsourcing will jump from \$32 billion in 2000 to more than \$66 billion in 2004.

The astonishingly huge and succulent profit for CRM service provider and software vendor. Obviously, autocomponent company can benefit from CRM as a service because it minimize capital expenditure on new hardware and software and cut ongoing IT-support cost dramatically. Choosing the right service remains an intimidating challenge. For many companies, it translates into making an almost blind election based on marketing demonstration or other people's testimonies rather than on direct experience with the product. An online channel may be just one of two or more CRM channels used to manage customer relationship. CRM can impede the growth of other channels. Enabling Indian firms to offer products that better meet the needs and lifestyles of a customer and help the organization achieve its objectives is what CRM is all about. The better way to do so may be through a traditional marketing channel.

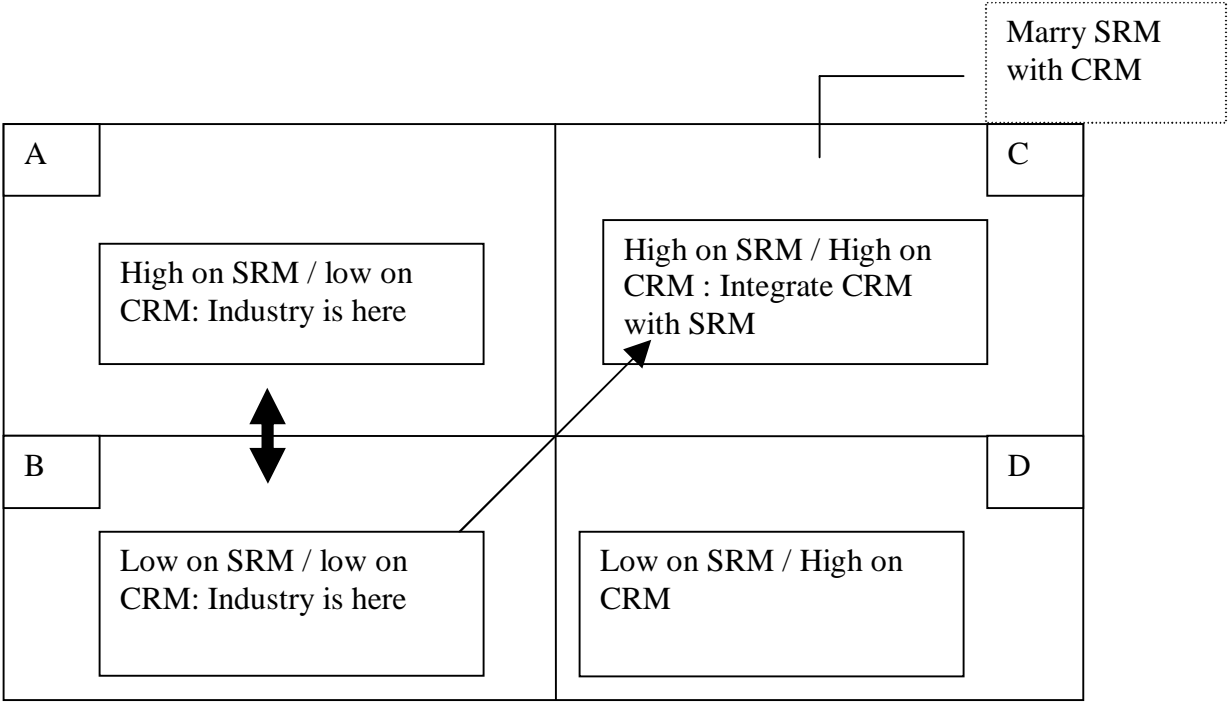
Does CRM really help the companies in line with the hype created? Or the reliance with basic awareness of CRM? The present research by author clearly shows, the reliance with basic awareness of CRM, there is a need to make business aware and educate on value of customer relationship management package.

Finally, business must realize that an online channel is more than just a communication tool. Marketing oriented CRM can supply useful information to the product development management (PDM) and supply chain management (SCM) processes, thereby delivering more value to the firm and to the customer.

6.7 Contribution to Knowledge :Based on above detail discussion we have suggested new framework.Our literature survey clearly pointed out that more research with regard to the basic awareness and implementation phase may be required.We have proposed a new framework to take full benefit of CRM applications.To take full benefit of CRM applications we have suggested following framework.

(Refer: Proposed CRM Vs SRM Quadrant)

Most of companies are in early stages of implementing Supplier Relationship Management in quadrant A and B. There are negligible companies which are better off on CRM initiatives as compared to the ERP and SRM implementations. Few companies are in quadrant C that is good initiatives in CRM and SRM areas. Companies should move from quadrant B to quadrant C. Ideally to take full benefit of CRM and SRM, both should be integrated. Real value of investment in packaged implementation will not come if we donot integrate SRM with CRM.



6.7.1 Analysis using the new framework:

6.7.1.1 We have analysed the organisations with new framework to find issues with present implementations.

6.7.1.2 Most of companies are in early stages of implementing Supplier Relationship Management in quadrant A and B.

6.7.1.3 There are negligible companies which are better off on CRM initiatives as compared to the ERP and SRM implementations

6.7.1.4 Few companies are in quadrant C that is good initiatives in CRM and SRM areas.

Ideally to take full benefit of CRM and SRM, both should be integrated. Real value of investment in packaged implementation will not come if we don't. *Marry CRM with SRM*

6.7.2 Blending Theory into Practice: We have suggested action plan to blend the theory into practice for corporates with following action plan. Based on analysis we have proposed action plan as follows:

6.7.2.1 Issue: The key to success for CRM Applications lies in increasing awareness in business about the advantages of these applications to cater to the digitization challenges of B2B business. **Action Plan:** Increase business awareness on CRM

6.7.2.2 Issue : Integration of SRM, ERP and CRM is key to successful implementation. **Action Plan:** Integrate SRM, ERP and CRM

6.7.2.3 Issue : The CRM systems that have been implemented by many companies are dominated by operational applications like contact centre, sales and marketing solution with limited customer knowledge gained from the current CRM application. The analytical power of CRM has not been adequately perceived by many organisations. **Action Plan:** Use CRM for strategic decisions.

Chapter Seven: Future Scope of The Work

Reducing supply chain cycle time means decreasing the days of inventory held and reducing the cash conversion cycle. This can mean hundreds of thousands of dollars, even millions, reduction in inventory and in carrying charges. In turn this is a pitfall available for other users. All parties in the supply chain must understand their importance in gaining the benefits. Improving cycle time is a position the retailer for greater inventory yield and faster turn. The impact is a higher value and service. Reducing supply chain cycle time takes only a little effort. Points to consider are:

- Supply chain is complex. The purpose of all this activity is to place product timely and correctly in store or to customer facilities. It must be designed, directed and managed process, not a series of order and shipping transactions. Purchasing and logistic processes and practices up or down the supply chain impede time

- Product and information should flow. Operational effectiveness depends on process, technology and people that cross internally within the company and externally with supplier and customer.

- The process should be free of gaps and redundancies. Measure the time required in each section and the reason for the action. Watch for organizational dysfunction that can creep in and add unnecessary time.

- Inventory is created as a buffer for uncertainty. Uncertainty increases, almost exponentially, the time required to position it correctly increases. So inventory increase time increases.

- Tradeoffs do exist between time (and inventory) and cost. Global sourcing adds to time and to the inventory that must be carried because of it.

- External factors exist that impact time and may be beyond control to be reduced. Homeland security for importer is one such factor. It adds to how promptly supplier located outside the U.S. can ship order. Logistic infrastructure in sourcing countries is another factor that can add time and impede the flow of product from supplier's facilities to port and airport.

- Besides the product supply chain, there is also financial supply chain. This second chain can and does affect the timely flow of product.

With the extended supply chain, there are numerous places to extend, not reduce, supply chain cycle time and inventory. Likewise there are key points to concentrate on for reducing time. Key ways to reduce time are:

- Manage vendor performance. This is a critical requirement for reducing supply chain cycle time. Supplier, at the supply chain source, have incredible impact on the supply chain to time, inventory and cost, impact that goes far beyond pricing and placing purchase order. Visibility of purchase order, at supplier, in-transit and at each step in the chain, from vendor's plant to delivery at the warehouse, store or customer's site.

- Integrate up and down the supply chain, both external and internal. This is mandatory. Non-integration adds to supply chain time and the lack of responsiveness and added cost in the cycle time. Integrate demand forecasting or other inventory planning with supplier for their build plan. Integrate purchase order into transportation load planning. Everyone should be working from the same data, information and system or platform. Manufacturer integrate through the production process.

Transferring data up and down the chain is not enough. Data is not information. To collect, analyze, and forward data takes time. Supplier and service provider then reenter the data into their system. In turn they do this to their supplier. All this quietly adds to cycle time.

Conversely, integration reduce time and increase accuracy. Integration may not be readily and easily done with all parties in the supply chain. Do it with key supplier and service provider, key to volume or critical product, partner or need. Have key supplier integrate with their key supplier so the benefit ripple through the supply pipeline.

- Collaborate with key supplier and service provider. Work together partner and be open to the mutual exchange. Reducing procedure and demanding compliance with requirements is not collaboration. Work to align the process between both parties so that it flows smoothly and with minimal time.

- Analyze how inventory moves and where inventory sits or is transferred for opportunities to move it more quickly and with fewer handlings. Improvement is possible with:

- Warehouse / distribution network. Where warehouses are located to time from store or customer or supplier impacts supply chain cycle time by becoming fixed repositories based on need that may be outdated.

- Multi-tier inbound logistics process. What mode, carrier, service and port are used can reduce transit time and increase inventory and cash conversion velocities. Inventory in transit is not inventory available for sell. Having different processes for inventory items (and some B items)--compared to many B items and C items--put time emphasis where needed.

- Bypassing the distribution network where possible to reduce time. Three options to do this are:

- Ship inbound containers direct to store or customer.
- Use transfer facilities to or near port(s) to quickly unload containers and transfer directly to needed destination.

- Global inventory in transit and then cross-dock container to transfer facility closer to the port or to distribution center.
- Implement technology. This is necessary; it is an enabler. However, technology by itself will not result in needed improvement; it is not a silver bullet that solves all problems. Technology should be used to create the supply chain enterprise, both internal and external. It is key to gaining much needed supply chain visibility. Much visibility is needed for multi-tier inbound and beyond the distribution network program.
- Global supplier and transport provider cannot be readily managed with email. Technology is needed. Supply chain complexity and complexity require more than one software to be used for effective control. Supplier management is directing and controlling supplier performance. It looks at the timing of product, the quantity, how and where delivered, product mix and more. The intent is to maximize yield. Portals provide tracking useful tracking information and provide shipment visibility. But they remain after-the-fact tools and do not manage inventory or time.
- Tracking purchase order and content of inbound container has great value compared to just tracking container number. Visibility into the container is the target for significant abilities to reduce time and inventory.
- Converting the point of sale (POS)-data into replenishment order on warehouse and, in turn, into purchase order on supplier is critical.
- Supply chain execution technology may be the most valuable of the technology applications. It is vital to integration and collaboration.
- Ease of connectivity-web enabled, interface and mobile access is important.

- Maximum supply chain process coverage-order management, transportation, distribution, warehousing, vendor, finance and more- important to directing and managing the process and reducing time and inventory.

- Event management and exception management capabilities should be part of the technology used; they empower control of the process.

Increasing cycle time velocity and improving inventory yield begin with supplier management. Effective supplier management is based on technology, process and people. Technology is how purchase order is placed on supplier, via the Internet, EDI or other. It is supply chain execution. More importantly it is how purchase order and supplier are managed with event management and exception management. The technology enables reviewing order, their priorities, their type and other mixes, their timing, quantities and more. Technology gives visibility to directing and controlling supplier performance and what is in the supply chain, including what is happening with transportation and other logistic service providers.

Process take purchase order from being transaction to being part of process that flow through the organization. That process enables the linking of all parts of the supply chain, the integration within the company and between trading partners. It gives the dynamic to controlling product flow and inventory positioning. That control is key to placing the right inventory, right to quantity and timing and location, in order to achieve higher price yield.

People are logistic personnel positioned in China, India or wherever your supplier is located. They speak the same language and are in the same time zone as supplier. They are the day-to-day operational people that make process and technology work. Global supply chain cannot be managed with email. Managing supplier also requires people. Time and inventory yield improvement increase profit, shareholder value and customer service and retention.

Based on the literature review, theory development, and case study, this research provides insight for discrete part manufacturing firms that design, implement, and participate in supply chain. It defines the characteristics for standard, innovative, and hybrid products, and it provides a framework for understanding lean and agile supply chains. L C employ continuous improvement efforts and focus on the elimination of non-value added steps across the supply chain. Companies respond to rapidly changing, continually fragmenting global markets by being dynamic, context-specific, growth-oriented, and customer-focused. H C combine the capabilities of lean and agile supply chains to create a supply network that meets the need for complex products.

Standard products, which tend to be simple products with limited amount of differentiation, should be produced by L C, which focus on simplicity, cost reduction, quality and limited amount of flexibility. Black and Decker Inc. demonstrates how this focus has made them successful in the hand tool and appliance business. In this environment, L C partners employ manufacturing practices that enable the economic production of small quantities. Small batch production allows manufacturer to keep inventory costs low, achieve manufacturing cost reduction, and meet customer demand for variety of products.

Early in their product life previous term cycle, next term innovative products, which may employ new and complex technology, require C. As the product enters the maturity and decline phase of the product life previous term cycle, next term L C could be more appropriate. IBM illustrates this transformation. As markets begin to grow and customer demand rapidly change and high level of innovation, strategic partnership among supply chain members are essential to create the knowledge rich environment needed to support the effort. There is a need for innovative ideas and products in market to target and retrieve a system for business.

and Internet application. On the other hand, for significant part of the distributor market, specifically the PC segment, distributor has become standard product with competitive environment that is similar to any commodity. In the market and customer expectation shift, the supply chain should transition from lean to agile.

Hybrid product, which are complex, have many component and participating companies in the supply chain. Some component may be commodities while others may be new and innovative. The DaimlerChrysler case illustrates that for complex products variety of supplier relationships may be needed. Some parts have significant technological components that add value to the vehicle in the eyes of the consumer, such as global positioning and information systems for navigation. For other parts, product technology is well established but the components themselves are high cost, bulky, and subject to variation. Other components are basic commodities that customers do not see or appreciate but they are essential to the vehicle's safety and performance. This wide range of components presents DaimlerChrysler with fundamentally different CM issues.

Future research could involve refining the observations described in this Research through series of case studies involving organizations from other industries. Once the ideas have been transformed into research frameworks, data could be collected and the frameworks and hypotheses could be tested.

Based on the literature review, theory development, and case studies, this research provides insight for discrete part manufacturing firms that design, implement, and participate in supply chains. It defines the characteristics for standard, innovative, and hybrid products, and it provides frameworks for understanding lean and agile supply chains. LSCs employ continuous improvement efforts and focus on the elimination of non-value added steps across the supply

chain. Companies respond to rapidly changing, continually fragmenting global market by being dynamic, context-specific, growth-oriented, and customer focused. HCs combine the capabilities of lean and agile supply chain to create supply network that meet the need of complex product.

Standard product, which tend to be simple product with limited amount of differentiation, should be produced by LC, which focus on simplicity, cost reduction, quality and limited amount of flexibility. Black and Decker Inc. demonstrate how this focus has made them successful in the hand tool and appliance business. In this environment, LC partners employ manufacturing practices that enable the economic production of small quantities. Small batch production allows manufacturer to keep inventory cost low, achieve manufacturing cost reduction, and meet customer demand for variety of product.

Early in their product life previous term cycle, next term innovative product, which may employ new and complex technology, require HC. When the product enters the maturity and decline phase of the product life previous term cycle, next term LC could be more appropriate. IBM illustrates this transformation. Market begins to grow and customer demand rapidly change and high level of innovation, strategic partnership among supply chain members essential to create the knowledge rich environment needed to support the effort. There is need for innovative ideas and product in market to store and retrieve information for business and Internet application. On the other hand, for significant part of the distribution market, specifically the PC segment, disk storage has become standard product with competitive environment that is similar to any commodity. In the market and customer expectation shift, the supply chain should transition from lean to agile.

Hybrid product, which are complex, have many components and participating companies in the supply chain. Some components may be commodities while others may be new and innovative. The DaimlerChrysler case illustrates that for complex products a variety of supplier relationships may be needed. Some parts have significant technological components that add value to the vehicle in the eyes of the consumer, such as global positioning and information systems for navigation. For other parts, product technology is well established but the components themselves are high cost, bulky, and subject to variation. Other components are basic commodities that customers do not see or appreciate but they are essential to the vehicle's safety and performance. This wide range of components presents DaimlerChrysler with fundamentally different CM issues.

Future research could involve refining the observations described in this research through a series of case studies involving organizations from other industries. Once the evidence has been transformed into a research framework, data could be collected and the framework and hypotheses could be tested.

This research provides empirical justification for a framework that identifies five key dimensions of CM practice and describes the relationships among CM practice, competitive advantage, and organizational performance. It examines three research questions: (1) do organizations with high levels of CM practice have high levels of competitive advantage; (2) do organizations with high levels of CM practice have high levels of organizational performance; (3) do organizations with high levels of competitive advantage have high levels of organizational performance? For the purpose of investigating these issues comprehensively, valid, and reliable instruments for measuring CM practice were developed. The instruments were tested using rigorous statistical tests including convergent validity, discriminant validity,

reliability, and the validation of second-order construct. This study provides empirical evidence to support conceptual and prescriptive statements in the literature regarding the impact of CRM practice.

We scope of further research in following areas.

1. Further investigation can be done with companies who have done successful integration of SRM and CRM and find right factors that influenced the success.
2. There is need to do more research on why CRM applications are still not popular in lots of Business.
3. Investigation also needs to be done if present CRM applications which are more tuned for service industry need to be revamped to take care of B2B needs like the Auto and industrial marketing.

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APPENDIX A: Questionnaire for analysis.

1. Effective Response to customer queries.

2. Online Order Booking

3. Near accurate response to Customer requirement in terms of delivery and service.

4. Flow of customer requirement across the supply chain /Service

5. Customer feedback and Information across the supply Chain /Service.

Detail Questions

- Effective Response to customer queries.

1. Are you able to give satisfactory answers regarding the product or service availability using the CRM application?

Yes

No

Sometimes.

2. Do you often cross Check with other applications to confirm data in your CRM application ?

Yes

No

Sometimes

3. Does your IT department get complaints of data mismatch or interface failures for the customer data?

Yes

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No

Sometimes.

4. Do you get complaints from customer for the inaccuracy of the information provided by you like wrong inventory, service or accounts payable etc.

Yes

No

Sometimes.

- Online Order Booking

5. Is percentage of Online orders booked between 75- 90%?

Yes

No

Sometimes.

6. For Online orders booked does your supply chain department get accurate information regarding the product, service & required delivery date ?

Yes

No

Sometimes

7. Do you often call up your customer to confirm the order details once you receive a online order?

Yes

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No

Sometimes

8. Is the customer interface for online ordering user friendly?

Yes

No

Sometimes

9. Do you often get complaints regarding the application for online ordering?

Yes

No.

Sometimes

- Near accurate response to Customer requirement in terms of delivery and service.

10. Are you able to give accurate delivery date or service response time using the CRM application?

Yes

No

Sometimes

11. Do you often check with your supply chain department or service department instead of using the information in the CRM application?

Yes

No

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Sometimes

12.Does your IT department get complaints of data mismatch or interface failures for the customer data?

Yes

No

Sometimes.

- Flow of customer requirement across the supply chain

13.Are you able to send information to supply chain department online using the CRM application?

Yes

No.

Sometimes

14.Do you write a mail or send a memo to the supply chain department for customer trequirement?

Yes

No.

Sometimes

15.Is the SCM/Service department always aware of dates committed to customer?

Yes

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No

Sometimes

16. Do you encounter mismatch in information you have and the information in base SCM system like ERP?

Yes

No.

Sometimes

- Customer feedback and Information across the supply Chain.

17. Does your CRM application provide ability to record the customer feedback online?

Yes

No.

Sometimes

18. If Yes, are you able to communicate it online across the SCM/Service in case of complaint or appreciation?

Yes

No.

Sometimes

19. CRM application needs to be

More User Friendly

More data accuracy across the integrated system

More User Friendly & More data accuracy across the integrated system

Present application are good enough.

20.In case of feedback , how does it help to improve further please describe.

APPENDIX B: Sample Analysis

	Name of Company	Q1. Are you able to give satisfactory answers regarding the product or service availability using the CRM application?	Yes	No	Sometimes
1	Siemens		Yes	Nil	Nil
2	L&T Infotech		Yes	Nil	Nil
3	ASCI			No	
4	ASAL			No	
5	knorr-bremse			No	
6	TACO Engineering			No	
7	TACOFaurecia			No	
8	TACO Hendrickson Suspension Systems Pvt Ltd (THSL			No	
9	TACO MobiApps Telematics Limited (TMT)			No	
10	TACO SCM			No	
11	TACO Tooling			No	
12	TACO Visteon Engineering Center			No	
13	TacoKunststofftechnik			No	
14	TACO Interiors and Plastics Division			No	
15	Tata Ficoso Automotive Systems			No	
16	Tata Johnson Controls Automotive Limited			No	
17	Tata Toyo Radiator Limited			No	
18	Tata Yazaki Autocomp Limited			No	
19	TC Springs Limited			No	
20	Technical Stampings Automotive Ltd			No	
21	Tyco Electronics				
22	SNS Technologies		Yes		
23	Cotmac electronics			No	
24	Proex Solutions			No	
25	BUI Pvt Ltd			No	
26	DGP Hinoday			No	
27	Khandwala Securities			No	
28	India Bulls			No	
29	Stanadard Chartered			No	
30	Cosmos Bank			No	
31	GKN Sintermetals			No	

	Name of Company	Q1. Are you able to give satisfactory answers regarding the product or service availability using the CRM application?	Yes	No	Sometimes
32	Mahindra British Telecom		Yes		
33	Cybase			No	

	Name of Company	Q3. Does your IT department get complaints of data mismatch or interface failures for the customer data?	Yes	No	Sometimes
1	Siemens		Yes		
2	L&T Infotech				Sometimes
3	ASCI			No	
4	ASAL			No	
5	knorr-bremse			No	
6	TACO Engineering			No	
7	TACOFaurecia			No	
8	TACO Hendrickson Suspension Systems Pvt Ltd (THSL)				Sometimes
9	TACO MobiApps Telematics Limited (TMT)			No	
10	TACO SCM			No	
11	TACO Tooling				Sometimes
12	TACO Visteon Engineering Center			No	
13	TacoKunststofftechnik			No	
14	TACO Interiors and Plastics Division			No	
15	Tata Fiosa Automotive Systems			No	
16	Tata Johnson Controls Automotive Limited			No	
17	Tata Toyo Radiator Limited			No	
18	Tata Yazaki Autocomp			No	

	Name of Company	Q3. Does your IT department get complaints of data mismatch or interface failures for the customer data?	Yes	No	Sometimes
	Limited				
19	TC Springs Limited			No	
20	Technical Stampings Automotive Ltd			No	
21	Tyco Electronics				
22	SNS Technologies			No	
23	Cotmac electronics			No	
24	Proex Solutions			No	
25	BUI Pvt Ltd			No	
26	DGP Hinoday			No	
27	Khandwala Securities			No	
28	India Bulls			No	
29	Stanadard Chartered			No	
30	Cosmos Bank			No	
31	GKN Sintermetals			No	
32	Mahindra British Telecom			No	
33	Cybase			No	

List of Publications.

1. Kulkarni Y , Keskar A and Ajotikar M, "Marry CRM with SRM : The Best way to make your CRM effective, Pumba Research Journal (paper accepted for publication).
2. Kulkarni Y & Keskar A, "Assessing the effectiveness of CRM solutions in increasing effectiveness of Supply Chain Management, Pumba Research Journal (paper accepted for publication).

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Yogesh Kulkarni is a Engineer from College of Engineering Pune & MBA from S.P.Jain Institute of Management & Research (Mumbai) one of the top ten business schools. He is presently working with TATA Auto Comp Systems Limited as HEAD- Oracle Applications & IT looking after Oracle applications implementation in areas of Manufacturing and SCM.He has 12 years of experience in Operations,IT/Information Management and Consulting in areas of ERP /SCM (Oracle applications-Implementation & support), Operations & Process Consulting, Benefit analysis & Business Process Rationalization/Standardization.

Brief Biography of the Supervisor:

Dr. Anil Keskar is currently Director at Sinhgad Technical Education Society's Sinhgad Business School, Pune. He took up this position from November 1, 2007, upon his superannuating as **Professor and Head of the Department of Management Sciences, University of Pune (popularly known as PUMBA).**

Dr. Keskar is a Metallurgical Engineer from the Government College of Engineering, Pune (COEP), and MBA from PUMBA. He is from the founding batch of PUMBA.

Dr.Keskar has unique blend of industry experience and academics. Dr. Keskar has worked on various assignments in the areas of Operations, Supply Chain, Quality, Marketing, HR, etc. in organizations like:

- International Computers Indian Manufacture (now Zensar Technologies)
- Wanson (now Thermax)
- Kirloskar Oil Engines
- Amalgamations
- Sanmar Engineering
- Bharat Forge

Dr. Keskar left his Industrial stride in the year 1994, for pursuing his research in the field of Strategic Marketing, which he completed with a Ph. D. in the year 1996.

Dr. Keskar is associated with Management education in Pune since 1978, as a visiting faculty. He has taught at almost all the Business Schools in the state of Maharashtra (India). His first full time assignment in the academics was as a Senior Faculty at Kalyani Cranfield Manufacturing Management Centre, a joint venture between the Kalyani Group and the Cranfield University of UK. Dr. Keskar has held the position of Founder Director of Allana Institute of Management Sciences, Pune between 1998 and 2003.

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Dr. Keskar is a founder member of Industry Institution Interaction (I cube) initiative of CII, Pune. He was a member of the Academic Council of the University of Pune. He is also member of the various academic bodies of the Panjab University Chandigarh, University of Mumbai, and

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Dr. Keskar is a recognized research guide for guiding Ph. D. Students at the University of Pune, and Symbiosis International University Pune.

Dr. Keskar was elected as a member on the Executive Board of the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) for the year 2007-08. He is also a Life Member of the National Institute of Personnel Management (NIPM), All India Management Association (AIMA), and Pune Management Association.