

Editorial Introduction

In the present issue of the BJO&PM we are publishing eight papers covering important aspects of production and operations management.

The first paper discusses the “role of strategic lean” and is authored by Gabriela Lobo Veiga, Edson Pinheiro de Lima, Jannis Jan Angelis and Sergio E. Gouvea da Costa. In this article, the authors observe that the benefits of improvement programs related literature, such as lean production, is often contradictory to operations strategy principles. So, based on a range of interviews with experts, the authors compare experts’ view about the strategic role of lean. The results from this interesting research support the idea that a formal strategy approach is necessary to focus lean model implementation.

The second one is authored by Luciana Londero Brandli, Marcos Antonio Leite Frandoloso, Joel Tauchen. In this paper, throughout the adoption of a PDCA cycle based methodology and on bibliographical review over national and international literature about best practices of sustainability, the authors analyze the sustainable practices at a Brazilian University. As a result of this research the authors point out guidelines for a sustainable environmental management at this university, involving both academic activities and the campus infrastructure. It is interesting to highlight the author’s conclusion “that initiatives of sustainable principles have been adopted by several universities, but with an isolated approach”. This conclusion opens new perspectives of research in this field.

The third manuscript was written by José Fabiano da Serra Costa. This interesting paper presents an original genetic algorithm approach in order to eliminate inconsistent judgments while using AHP for supporting decision making. This approach is quite intriguing since AHP is one of the most used multiple criteria methods and inconsistency is a relevant problem that concerns AHP modeling.

The fourth paper in this issue also addresses decision support. Authored by Annibal Parracho Sant’Anna, Helio Darwich Nogueira and Lucia Mathias Rabelo, this paper proposes the adoption of a probabilistic approach for supporting a special kind of the decision problem: fast group decision. The proposal method identifies outliers in initial evaluations in order to obtain the best option. This way, as the final procedure can be developed in an automatic way, this approach is useful in fast group decisions.

Authored by Glauco H. S. Mendes and José Carlos de Toledo, the fifth paper seeks identifying the contribution of fuzzy front end activities and practices for the most of new product success of Brazilian Technology-based companies (TBCs) focusing the medical device industry. Based on a research over a set of 39 companies and 49 new product projects, the paper provides a notable causal model for the fuzzy front end of new product development, which address dimensions such as : strategic; process; organization; and leadership.

The sixth paper, written by Orivalde Soares da Silva Júnior, Luiz Antônio Silveira Lopes and Ulf Bergmann, presents a free geographical information system to support the solution of the Multi-Depot Vehicle Routing problem. This paper reports the results of the algorithm adopted with the purpose of resolving a problem of a company from the food sector and compares these results against those from a commercial solution, concluding that, in that case, the results from the free tool are better.

The seventh manuscript of this issue, written by Adriano Soares Koshiyama, Maria Cristina Affonso Lorenzon and Wagner de Souza Tassinari, focus on identifying the socio-economic, technological, management and geographic factors that influenced the honey prices in Brazil. Based on classical linear and spatial econometrics regression models, the results from this newsworthy research contributed to hypotheses about the behavior of the honey prices when they are related to socioeconomic factors.

In the eight paper of this issue, Sueli Aparecida Mingoti and Fernando Luiz Pereira de Oliveira discuss the effects of the autocorrelation on some multivariate capability indices commonly used for independent processes. As a result of this discussion a correction is proposed. This paper also highlights the need of being careful while using Niverthi and Dey's capabilities indices, and concludes that the results had shown that Veever's and Mingoti and Glória's multivariate capability indices performed better than Niverthi and Dey's and were less subject to wrong conclusions about the capability or non-capability of the process.

I take the opportunity to thanks to all the people that keep contributing to our Brazilian Journal of Operations & Production Management, especially to the authors, reviewers, editorial board and administrative staff of both BJO&PM and ABEBRO.

Prof. Helder Gomes Costa
Editor-in-Chief

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