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## A conceptual framework to measure operational efficiency of apparel industry in emerging economies

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Nirma Sadamali Jayawardena

Department of Marketing,  
Griffith Business School,  
Griffith University, Australia  
Email: sadamali.jayawardena@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Operational efficiency means the organisation's ability to decrease wastage of inputs and maximise resource utilisation. This could be done by increasing supply quality and eliminating the low-quality products and services for customers (González and Álvarez, 2001). Operational efficiency is a useful measure which utilises the available resources (González and Álvarez, 2001). In this study, researcher was able to develop a more concise conceptual framework which can be used to measure the operational efficiency of apparel industry in emerging economies. This conceptual framework is based on an extensive literature review with 50 research articles which discussed on the operational efficiency in apparel industry of emerging economies. Four different databases have been used to access the research articles in developing this conceptual framework. These are Sage, Google Scholar, Scopus and Pro Quest. This conceptual framework consists of five independent variables which are labour productivity, inventory management, technology, organisations management, supply chain management and dependent variable is operational efficiency.

**Keywords:** operational efficiency; apparel industry; emerging economies; conceptual framework.

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**Biographical notes:** Nirma Sadamali Jayawardena is a student following the Graduate Diploma of Business Research in Marketing leading to a PhD in the Griffith University, Australia. She completed her BSc in Business Management (with a First Class Honours) from the National School of Business Management, Sri Lanka in 2014. She also pursued MBA specialising in International Business from the University of Colombo in the year 2016. This manuscript is a work of her own based on the work experience she had in the apparel sector of Sri Lanka.

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