

Abstract

COVID-19 has affected all countries and all types of organisations around the world, especially healthcare organisations. With coronavirus infections increasing exponentially from March 2020 onwards, hospitals had to respond to the demands placed upon them within a short period of time and with limited preparedness. Procurement and supply chain professionals in hospitals had to deal with high levels of uncertainty in terms of both demand and supply for a range of products, especially for personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and infection control medication. In both developed and developing countries, hospitals were unable to respond quickly to COVID-19 infected patients presented to them. The need for building resilient and responsive healthcare supply chains has been highlighted during this pandemic and requires immediate response from researchers, practitioners and policy-makers.

The aim of this view point paper is to examine how healthcare supply chains are being impacted by COVID-19 in Sri Lanka and their capability with respect to responsiveness and resilience. Drawing from, information from diverse global and local sources from scholars, professionals and policy makers, the paper will address the needs for progressing the current healthcare supply chains to become 'Smart Supply Chains' based on the utilisation of digital technologies, appropriate 'business models' and supplier relationships. Specifically, this paper will identify the specific opportunities for the implementation of emerging technologies and building the associated human resource capability. This paper will present the preliminary analysis of information gathered and outline the future research program in this important area.

KEYWORDS

COVID-19, Healthcare- Supply Chains, responsiveness, resilience, repurposing, risk assessment,