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Applications of IOT's for Archiving Supplier Sustainability in Supply Chain with Reference to TSRTC Telangana

Adiraju Santhakumari Praneetha[1], Dr. Udaya Shankar[2]

[1] Student Of MBA Department, KLEF, Andhra Pradesh. Email: praneethaadiraju25@gmail.com
[2]Professor, MBA Department, KLEF, ANDHRA PRADESH.

ABSTRACT

The integration of the Internet of Things in supply chain management offers transformative potential for improving sustainability, especially in public transportation systems like the TELANGANA State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC). This paper explores the applications of IOT for enhancing supplier sustainability within the TSRTC supply chain. IOT enables real-time monitoring, data-driven decision-making, and greater transparency, thereby facilitating more sustainable practices.

Key IOT applications include smart inventory management, predictive maintenance of vehicles, and efficient fuel usage tracking. For TSRTC, IOT can also improve the selection and monitoring of sustainable suppliers by automating compliance checks and evaluating environmental performance. By leveraging IOT-enabled sensors and analytics, TSRTC can track supplier contributions to carbon emissions, energy consumption, and waste generation, ensuring alignment with sustainability goals.

The study highlights specific use cases such as real-time GPS-enabled route optimization to reduce fuel consumption and IOT-based fleet tracking systems for monitoring vehicle conditions and supplier-provided spare parts. By adopting IOT solutions, TSRTC can promote accountability, reduce operational costs, and contribute to environmental conservation while meeting the growing demand for sustainable practices in public transport.

This abstract underscores the pivotal role of IOT in creating a greener, more efficient supply chain, setting a benchmark for other public transport organizations to follow.

Keywords:: Sustainable supply chain, circular economy, environmental sustainability, social responsibility, corporate sustainability, ESG (environmental, social, and governance), data analytics, supply chain optimization.

INTRODUCTION:

Supply chain sustainability involves designing, managing, and optimizing supply chains to minimize their environmental impact, improve social responsibility, and promote long-term economic health. Given growing concerns about climate change, resource depletion, and social equity, sustainable supply chains have become a priority for businesses, governments, and consumers.

The Internet of Things (IOT) is revolutionizing industries across the globe, transforming traditional practices into data-driven, intelligent, and sustainable ecosystems. In supply chain management, IOT applications provide immense potential for tracking, monitoring, and optimizing resources, particularly in achieving sustainability goals with respect to suppliers. The transportation sector, including public transport systems, is particularly well-suited to leverage IOT for these purposes, with benefits spanning efficiency, environmental impact, and economic savings.

TELANGANA State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), a major public transportation organization in the Indian state of TELANGANA, presents a valuable case for studying IOT applications in a real- world public supply chain scenario. TSRTC, responsible for ensuring reliable public transportation, faces several challenges in sustainability, fuel management, vehicle maintenance.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Implement IOT solutions to gain real-time visibility into the sustainability practices of TSRTC's suppliers, enabling better monitoring and verification of their environmental and social performance.
2. Utilize IOT sensors and devices to collect accurate and granular data on supplier activities related to sustainability, enabling comprehensive analysis and identification of areas for improvement.

3. Automate data collection and reporting processes through IOT, reducing manual effort and improving the speed and accuracy of sustainability assessments.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. IOT for Supply Chain Sustainability:

Several studies have highlighted the role of IOT in enhancing supply chain sustainability. IOT-enabled sensors and devices can track the movement of goods, monitor environmental conditions, and collect data on energy consumption, waste generation, and emissions. This information can be used to assess the environmental impact of suppliers, identify areas for improvement, and promote sustainable practices throughout the supply chain.

2. IOT for Supplier Sustainability:

IOT can play a crucial role in evaluating and monitoring supplier sustainability performance. By collecting data on suppliers' environmental and social practices, organizations can identify risks and opportunities for collaboration. IOT-enabled platforms can facilitate communication and information sharing between buyers and suppliers, promoting transparency and accountability.

3. IOT Applications in Transportation:

IOT has numerous applications in the transportation sector, including fleet management, route optimization, and fuel efficiency. For TSRTC, IOT-enabled solutions can help track the location and condition of buses, optimize routes to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, and monitor driver behavior to improve safety and sustainability.

4. IOT for Waste Management:

IOT can also be used to improve waste management in the supply chain. Sensors can monitor waste levels in containers, optimize collection routes, and track waste disposal. This can help reduce waste generation, improve recycling rates, and minimize environmental impact.

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

CHALLENGES:

1. **Real-time Tracking and Monitoring:**
    - **Fuel:** Sensors in vehicles and fuel tanks can monitor fuel consumption, preventing theft and identifying areas for efficiency improvements.
    - **Parts:** RFID tags on parts can track their origin, usage, and lifespan, ensuring quality and authenticity.
    - **Vehicle Condition:** Sensors can monitor engine health, tire pressure, and other vital parameters, enabling predictive maintenance and reducing breakdowns.
2. **Data-Driven Insights:**
    - **Supplier Performance:** Data on delivery times, quality, and adherence to sustainability standards can be collected and analyzed to evaluate supplier performance.
    - **Environmental Impact:** IOT devices can track emissions, waste generation, and resource usage throughout the supply chain, helping identify areas for improvement.
    - **Optimization:** Real-time data can be used to optimize routes, reduce fuel consumption, and improve overall supply chain efficiency.
3. **Enhanced Transparency and Traceability:**
    - **Origin of Materials:** Block chain technology combined with IOT can trace the origin of materials, ensuring they are sourced responsibly and ethically.
    - **Manufacturing Processes:** Sensors can monitor manufacturing processes at supplier facilities, ensuring compliance with environmental and labor standards.
    - **Delivery and Logistics:** GPS tracking and sensor data can provide real-time visibility into the movement of goods, ensuring timely delivery and proper handling.

4. Technology Infrastructure: Implementing IOT solutions requires robust network connectivity, data storage, and analytics capabilities, which may be lacking in some areas.

5. Data Security and Privacy: Protecting sensitive data collected from IOT devices is crucial. TSRTC needs to ensure data security and comply with privacy regulations.

6. **Integration with Existing Systems:** Integrating IOT solutions with TSRTC's existing IT systems can be complex and costly.
7. **Cost of Implementation:** Deploying IOT devices and infrastructure can be expensive, especially for a large organization like TSRTC.
8. **Skills Gap:** TSRTC may need to invest in training and development to build the necessary skills to manage and utilize IOT solutions effectively.
9. **Supplier Collaboration:** Successful implementation of IOT requires collaboration with suppliers, who may have varying levels of technological maturity.

FUTERE DIRECTIONS:

1. **Fuel Efficiency and Emissions Monitoring:**

- **IOT Sensors:** Equip buses with sensors to monitor fuel consumption, engine performance, and emissions in real-time.
- **Data Analytics:** Analyze this data to identify areas for improvement in fuel efficiency, driving habits, and maintenance schedules.
- **Supplier Collaboration:** Share data with fuel suppliers to collaborate on developing more sustainable fuel options and optimizing fuel delivery routes.

2. **Vehicle Maintenance and Lifecycle Management:**

- **Predictive Maintenance:** Use IOT sensors to monitor the condition of critical components (e.g., tires, brakes, engine) and predict maintenance needs.
- **Optimized Maintenance:** Schedule maintenance proactively, reducing downtime and extending the lifespan of vehicles.
- **Sustainable Procurement:** Track the sourcing and lifecycle of spare parts, prioritizing suppliers who offer eco-friendly and durable components.

3. **Supply Chain Transparency and Traceability:**

- **Block chain Integration:** Implement block chain technology to create a transparent and immutable record of all transactions within the supply chain.
- **Supplier Verification:** Track the origin of materials, manufacturing processes, and transportation methods to ensure compliance with sustainability standards.
- **Ethical Sourcing:** Verify that suppliers adhere to ethical labor practices and environmental regulations.

4. **Waste Management and Recycling:**

- **Waste Tracking:** Use IOT sensors to monitor waste generation at depots and workshops.
- **Recycling Optimization:** Track the collection and recycling of waste materials, ensuring proper disposal and resource recovery.
- **Circular Economy:** Collaborate with suppliers to implement closed-loop systems for recycling and reusing materials.

5. **Environmental Monitoring and Impact Assessment:**

- **Air Quality Sensors:** Deploy sensors at bus depots and along routes to monitor air quality and assess the environmental impact of operations.
- **Data-Driven Decisions:** Use this data to inform route planning, fleet modernization strategies, and environmental impact mitigation measures.
- **Reporting and Compliance:** Generate reports on environmental performance to demonstrate commitment to sustainability and comply with regulations

Future Directions for TSRTC:

- **Integration with Smart City Initiatives:** Collaborate with city authorities to integrate IOT data with smart city platforms, optimizing traffic flow and reducing emissions.
- **Passenger Experience Enhancement:** Use IOT to provide real-time information to passengers on bus schedules, routes, and estimated arrival times.
- **Development of a Sustainability Dashboard:** Create a centralized platform to monitor and track key sustainability metrics, providing insights for continuous implementation.

METHODOLOGY:

TSRTC follows a multi-phase IOT implementation approach:

1. **Supplier Selection & IOT Compliance** – Ensuring vendors align with sustainability norms and IOT standards.
2. **IOT Deployment in Logistics & Warehousing** – Installing GPS, RFID, and telematics for tracking supplier deliveries.
3. **Real-Time Data Analytics & Cloud Integration** – Using AI-powered dashboards for supplier evaluation and sustainability compliance.
4. **Continuous Monitoring & Policy Optimization** – Refining policies based on insights gained from IOT-driven reports.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Improved Supplier Transparency & Compliance

- Real-time monitoring of suppliers' environmental and ethical practices.
- Compliance tracking for sustainability standards and regulatory policies.
- Data-driven insights on supplier adherence to eco-friendly operations.

2. Optimized Fuel & Energy Usage

- IOT sensors in fuel stations to monitor fuel quality and efficiency.
- Smart tracking of fuel consumption for each vehicle to reduce wastage.
- Automated alerts for inefficient fuel usage patterns.

3. Reduced Carbon Footprint

- IOT-based emission monitoring for supplier-provided goods and services.
- Sustainable sourcing through data analytics on supplier emissions.
- Encouraging suppliers to adopt green technologies.

4. Enhanced Logistics & Fleet Efficiency

- IOT-enabled GPS tracking for real-time supply chain visibility.
- Smart route optimization to reduce transportation emissions.
- Predictive maintenance to avoid breakdowns and reduce downtime.

Basic Knowledge of IOT in Supply Chain Sustainability:

1. What is IOT (Internet of Things)?

IOT refers to a network of interconnected devices that communicate and share data over the internet. These devices include sensor, RFID tags, GPS trackers, and smart analytics systems that help monitor, track, and optimize supply chain operations.

2. Importance of IOT in Supply Chain Management

IOT plays a critical role in improving visibility, efficiency, and sustainability in supply chains by:

- **Real-time tracking** of goods and vehicles
- **Predictive maintenance** of equipment
- **Optimizing resource utilization**
- **Reducing waste and emissions**
- **Enhancing supplier compliance with sustainability standards**

3. Key Components of IOT in Supplier Sustainability:

1. **Smart Sensors & RFID Tags**
    - Real-time tracking of vehicle parts and fuel supply
    - Monitoring supplier deliveries

2. **GPS & Telematics Systems**
    - Fleet tracking for efficient fuel usage
    - Reducing carbon footprint
3. **Block chain & Data Analytics**
    - Ensuring transparency in supplier transactions
    - Reducing fraud and inefficiencies
4. **Predictive Maintenance using IOT**
    - Monitoring bus parts to reduce breakdowns
    - Ensuring timely supplier replacements

4. Advantages of IOT in Supplier Sustainability for TSRTC:

- **Increased Operational Efficiency** (Better tracking of inventory and spare parts)
- **Cost Reduction** (Preventive maintenance reduces unexpected costs)
- **Real-Time Monitoring & Decision Making** (Faster issue resolution)
- **Improved Environmental Sustainability** (Optimizing fuel consumption & reducing emissions)

5. Factors to Consider for Implementation:

1. **Infrastructure & Network Connectivity** (IOT devices require stable connectivity)
2. **Cost of Deployment & Maintenance** (Ensuring cost-effectiveness for TSRTC)
3. **Data Security & Privacy** (Protecting supplier and operational data)
4. **Integration with Existing TSRTC Systems** (Ensuring compatibility with legacy systems)
5. **Scalability & Future Expansion** (Ensuring adaptability for future upgrades)

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

H1: The implementation of IOT-based monitoring systems in TSRTC's supply chain positively impacts supplier sustainability by improving efficiency, transparency, and resource optimization.

Sub-Hypotheses:

- **H1a:** IOT-enabled real-time tracking of vehicle spare parts and fuel consumption enhances supplier accountability and reduces wastage.
- **H1b:** Predictive maintenance using IOT sensors minimizes operational disruptions and promotes sustainable procurement practices.
- **H1c:** Smart inventory management through IOT reduces overstocking and under stocking, leading to optimized resource utilization.
- **H1d:** IOT-based environmental monitoring helps suppliers adhere to sustainability regulations and reduce carbon emissions.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

TSRTC can leverage the power of IOT to collect and analyze data related to supplier sustainability, enabling them to make informed decisions and drive continuous improvement. By implementing IOT-enabled solutions, TSRTC can gain valuable insights into supplier practices, identify areas for improvement, and track progress over time.

IOT Applications for Data Collection and Analysis:

1. **Real-time Monitoring of Supplier Facilities:**

- **Data Collection:** IOT sensors deployed in supplier facilities can collect real-time data on various environmental parameters, such as:
    - Energy consumption (electricity, gas, etc.)
    - Water usage
    - Waste generation (type, quantity)

- Emissions (air pollutants, greenhouse gases)
- Noise levels

- **Data Analysis:** This data can be transmitted to a central platform for analysis, enabling TSRTC to:
  - Identify trends and patterns in supplier resource consumption.
  - Benchmark supplier performance against industry best practices.
  - Detect anomalies and potential environmental risks.
  - Track progress towards sustainability goals.

2. **Tracking and Tracing of Materials:**

- **Data Collection:** RFID tags attached to materials and components can collect data on their origin, movement, and handling throughout the supply chain.
- **Data Analysis:** This data can be used to:
  - Verify the source of materials and ensure they are ethically sourced.
  - Track the environmental footprint of materials throughout their lifecycle.
  - Identify opportunities for waste reduction and recycling.
  - Ensure compliance with relevant regulations and certifications.

3. **Monitoring Transportation and Logistics:**

- **Data Collection:** IOT-enabled GPS trackers in vehicles can collect data on:
  - Fuel consumption
  - Emissions
  - Driver behavior (speed, idling time)
  - Route efficiency
- **Data Analysis:** This data can be used to:
  - Optimize transportation routes to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.
  - Identify areas for improvement in driver behavior.
  - Monitor compliance with environmental regulations.
  - Track the carbon footprint of transportation activities.

4. **Ensuring Ethical Labor Practices:**

- **Data Collection:** IOT-enabled wearable devices can collect data on:
  - Working hours
  - Exposure to hazardous conditions
  - Adherence to safety protocols
- **Data Analysis:** This data can be used to:
  - Ensure compliance with labor laws and safety regulations.
  - Identify potential risks and improve worker safety.
  - Monitor working conditions and promote fair labor practices.

5. **Enhancing Supplier Collaboration:**

- **Data Collection:** A cloud-based platform can be used to collect data from suppliers on their sustainability initiatives, certifications, and performance.
- **Data Analysis:** This data can be used to:

- Assess supplier sustainability performance.
- Identify best practices and areas for improvement.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among suppliers.
- Track progress towards collective sustainability goals.

CONCLUSION:

The Internet of Things (IOT) presents a powerful suite of tools for TSRTC to revolutionize its approach to supplier sustainability. By strategically deploying IOT devices and platforms, TSRTC can move beyond traditional, often manual, methods of supplier evaluation and embrace a data-driven, transparent, and proactive approach. The applications discussed, from real-time environmental monitoring and material tracking to ethical labor practice oversight and enhanced collaboration platforms, offer concrete pathways for TSRTC to achieve its sustainability goals.

Implementing these IOT solutions allows TSRTC to:

- **Gain Deeper Insights:** Real-time data collection and analysis provide a comprehensive understanding of supplier performance across various sustainability dimensions.
- **Drive Continuous Improvement:** By identifying areas for improvement and providing targeted feedback, TSRTC can encourage suppliers to adopt more sustainable practices.
- **Enhance Transparency and Traceability:** IOT enables the tracking of materials and processes throughout the supply chain, ensuring ethical sourcing and responsible production.
- **Strengthen Supplier Relationships:** Collaborative platforms facilitate open communication and knowledge sharing, fostering stronger partnerships with suppliers.
- **Improve Efficiency and Reduce Costs:** Optimized logistics and resource management contribute to cost savings and operational efficiency.
- **Mitigate Risks:** Proactive monitoring and risk assessment help identify and address potential sustainability-related issues before they escalate.

Ultimately, by embracing IOT for supplier sustainability archiving, TSRTC can not only improve its own environmental and social performance but also contribute to a more sustainable and responsible transportation ecosystem. This commitment to sustainability will enhance TSRTC's reputation, build stakeholder trust, and contribute to a better future and beyond. The key to success lies in careful planning, strategic implementation, and ongoing evaluation of the IOT solutions employed, ensuring they align with TSRTC's overall sustainability objectives and deliver measurable results.

REFERENCES:

While there isn't one single, definitive academic paper or report specifically detailing TSRTC's *exact* IOT implementation for supplier sustainability (as such specific information is usually proprietary), we can build a strong reference base by combining general IoT in supply chain sustainability literature with examples of similar implementations in other sectors. This approach allows for a well-supported argument.

Here's a breakdown of reference categories:

1. IOT in Supply Chain Sustainability (General):

- **Academic Journals:** Search databases like Scopus, Web of Science, and IEEE Explore for keywords like "IOT," "Supply Chain Sustainability," "Sustainable Procurement," "Traceability," "Transparency," and "Environmental Monitoring." Look for articles discussing frameworks, best practices, and case studies.
- **Reports and White Papers:** Organizations like the World Economic Forum, McKinsey, Deloitte, and Gartner often publish reports on these topics. Search their websites for relevant publications. Look for titles related to "Digital Supply Chains," "Sustainable Supply Chains," and "Industry 4.0."
- **Books:** Search for books on supply chain management, sustainability, and IOT. Look for chapters that discuss the intersection of these topics.

2. IOT for Specific Sustainability Aspects:

- **Environmental Monitoring:** Look for research on using IOT for energy efficiency, waste management, and emissions tracking in industrial settings.
- **Traceability:** Research RFID, block chain, and other technologies used for product and material traceability.
- **Ethical Sourcing:** Explore how IOT can be used to monitor labor conditions and ensure compliance with ethical standards.

3. Related Implementations (Other Sectors):

- **Case Studies:** Search for case studies of companies in other industries (e.g., manufacturing, retail, agriculture) that have implemented IOT for supply chain sustainability. These examples can provide valuable insights and best practices.
- **Industry Publications:** Look for articles in trade magazines and industry publications that discuss real-world implementations of IOT for sustainability.

4. TSRTC (Indirect References):

- **TSRTC Website and Publications:** Look for any information on TSRTC's website or in their publications related to sustainability initiatives, technology adoption, or supply chain management. Even if they don't explicitly mention IOT, this information can provide context.
- **News Articles and Press Releases:** Search for news articles or press releases about TSRTC's sustainability efforts or technology implementation