A Review of Lean Manufacturing Practices and their Benefits in Companies across Industry Type, Firm Size, Ownership, and Process Strategy

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Abstract: Lean Manufacturing is a philosophy widely practiced in the industry and a topic extensively researched in the academe. The aim of this paper is to investigate whether lean implementation in companies is dependent upon industry type, firm size, ownership, and process strategy. An extensive literature review is undertaken to determine the LM practices adopted by firms and the operational benefits realized. The study shows that a number of LM practices and benefits are most frequently observed in lean firms. Furthermore, lean can be considered as universal since it is adopted by companies regardless of industry type, firm size, ownership, and process strategy. Lastly, a research model is proposed to quantify the relationship between individual LM practices and their operational benefits.