

# Review of: "Mediating Role of Outsourcing on The Relationship Between Lean Manufacturing Practices and Profitability"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Score: 3.8/5

I would give the article a 3.8/5. The paper certainly has merit, but there are areas for improvement. This evaluation is based on the provided text based on clarity (4/5), organization (4/5), content richness (4/5), originality (3.5/5), Technical Rigor (3.5/5) and contribution to knowledge (4/5).

## 1. General Impressions:

The paper seeks to contribute to the existing literature by studying the mediating role of outsourcing between lean manufacturing practices and profitability. The topic is timely, especially as manufacturing firms grapple with challenges in the rapidly changing business environment.

## 2. Strengths:

**Relevance of Topic:** The topic is pertinent given the increasing emphasis on lean practices and the outsourcing decisions faced by many manufacturing firms.

**Research Methodology:** The authors have followed a robust methodology with a combination of correlation and regression analyses, which helps in strengthening the results.

**Statistical Rigor:** The paper demonstrates statistical rigor in its use of Sobel tests, correlation analyses, and hierarchical regression.

## 3. Areas of Improvement:

**Introduction Section:** The abstract and introduction have repetitive phrases. It would be more beneficial if the introduction was concise and avoided reiterating what's already in the abstract.

**Literature Review:** While the literature review is comprehensive, it would be beneficial to provide a clear synthesis of previous findings. Currently, individual studies are cited, but a more coherent narrative of previous findings will enhance clarity.

**Methodology:** The rationale behind selecting specific departments (e.g., procurement, production, finance, and administration) needs clarification. More details about the questionnaire, such as specific questions asked, could be provided or appended. Additionally, while the paper mentions that it used previously used measurement indicators, it would be beneficial to see these in detail or understand their adaptation better.

**Discussion:** The implications of the study for practitioners can be elaborated upon. While the results are discussed, a deeper dive into why outsourcing might be mediating the relationship and what this means for businesses will provide more depth.

**Grammar and Language:** There are some grammatical errors and sentence structures that could be improved for clarity.

## 5. Conclusion:

The manuscript has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the literature on lean manufacturing practices, outsourcing, and profitability. With a few improvements, especially in clarity, organization, and depth of discussion, it can offer significant insights for both academia and industry.