

# Impact of Information Technology Tools and AI on Supply Chain Management of Indian Automobile Industry

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## Abstract

*This article aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the supply chain within the Indian automotive sector through the application of innovative information technology tools and artificial intelligence. To achieve this goal, the study focuses on three main objectives: identifying key driving factors through an extensive literature review, analyzing the interrelationships among these factors, and prioritizing them based on their importance. In today's competitive environment, customer satisfaction is paramount for businesses. Through rigorous literature review, 10 influential factors, particularly those related to information technology tools, have been identified. A unified model is proposed to strengthen the supply chain of the Indian automotive sector, thereby improving marketing activities and future efficacy. By employing the Design Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL), data on the impact and effectiveness of each factor are collected, and a multilevel structured model is constructed to determine causal relationships. Factor ranking is established using the DEMATEL Multiple Criteria Decision Making method. The findings suggest that implementing strategies based on these identified factors can significantly enhance the marketing effectiveness of Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises, ultimately leading to a more efficient supply chain in the Indian automotive industry.*

**Keywords:** Supply chain management, information technology, artificial intelligence

## INTRODUCTION

The supply chain of the automotive industry is notably complex due to the multitude of components involved in vehicle manufacturing. The performance of automotive companies significantly relies on the efficiency of their supply chains. In today's technological landscape, integrating information technology tools and artificial intelligence (AI) into supply chain management is imperative. With

India's large population, rapid economic growth, and youthful demographic, global automotive companies are keen on the Indian market. Indian automotive companies must ramp up technology adoption in their supply chains to compete globally. However, foreign companies currently lead in this aspect. In today's competitive environment, companies must execute diverse business strategies adeptly to thrive. The future of India's automotive industry seems promising, given its abundant resources and manpower. Policies emphasizing maximal technology utilization will bolster the Indian automotive industry. Despite efforts, the Indian automotive industry's supply chain lags behind its foreign counterparts. Nevertheless, companies are increasingly motivated to incorporate technological innovations.

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Received Date: June 14, 2024  
Accepted Date: June 24, 2024  
Published Date: July 04, 2024

**Citation:** Sumit Chandak, Sunil Pipleya, Amit Chandak. Impact of Information Technology Tools and AI on Supply Chain Management of Indian Automobile Industry. Journal of Advances in Shell Programming. 2024; 11(2): 19–27p.

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Integrating information technology tools and AI into supply chain management is crucial for the automotive industry's performance, especially for Indian companies striving to compete globally, even though foreign companies currently lead in this aspect [1–3]. The advent of technology has revolutionized shopping behaviors, with a significant shift from traditional to online shopping facilitated by modern innovations. Marketing performance serves as a comprehensive evaluation of a company's achievements derived from its marketing activities, encompassing successful audience targeting and goal attainment. According to Morgan [4], integrating technology and AI into supply chain management will be pivotal in enhancing companies' performance soon. These strategies aim to boost supply chain efficiency, thereby driving sales progress, overall productivity, and customer satisfaction. The proliferation of e-commerce in India enhances purchasing convenience for consumers. E-commerce, an information technology (IT)-driven business model, focuses on facilitating online transactions. Competitive advantage is contingent upon customers' perception of a company's products relative to competitors. Companies with products offering a competitive edge are perceived as greater value creators.

Technology has completely changed the way people shop. Thanks to advancements in technology, there has been a notable shift from traditional in-store shopping to online shopping. Marketing performance is an all-encompassing assessment of the accomplishments a business has made from its marketing endeavors, including effective target audience identification and goal achievement. Morgan (2012) [4] asserts that soon, improving supply chain management using technology and artificial intelligence will be essential to raising corporate performance. By increasing supply chain efficiency, these tactics hope to advance sales, increase overall productivity, and improve customer satisfaction. Consumer convenience is increased by the growth of e-commerce in India [5–7]. The goal of e-commerce, an IT-driven business model, is to make online transactions easier. Competitive advantage depends on how consumers view a company's offerings in comparison to those of its rivals. Businesses are thought to create more value when their products give them a competitive advantage.

In the supply chain, adopting minor technological innovations, digital techniques, ensuring product quality, and fostering strong customer relationships are imperative for sustained existence and growth. Success hinges on adaptability to evolving business conditions, as businesses responsive to change are more likely to succeed. A company's growth and achievements are more influenced by its commitment than its resources. Flourishing in a competitive market necessitates strong reverse skills, particularly for companies engaged in export-related activities. Technical tools in supply chain management, particularly in the automotive industry, are crucial for progress and sustainability. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) play a pivotal role in this regard, without which companies would struggle to survive in the competitive landscape. Awareness is paramount for company growth, as information discrepancies and lack of awareness can lead to marketing strategy failures. Given the intense competition and rapid technological advancements, updated knowledge in production facilities and marketing processes is indispensable for success. Automotive companies invest significantly in their supply chains and thus require collaboration and support from other established entities. Comprehensive understanding of supply chain management dimensions, including product information, quality, target customers, inventory control, and post-sales service, is imperative.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

International competition is increasingly significant for Indian automotive companies' supply chain management. Embracing technical strategies to remain competitive in foreign markets will enhance companies' core outcomes soon. Complexity in the supply chain significantly impacts production capacity, often leading to customer dissatisfaction and delayed deliveries. Manufacturing and production capacity are influenced by various factors, including raw material availability, employee expertise, technology adoption, and flexible manufacturing systems. Customer loyalty and satisfaction are central, with product quality and after-sales service playing pivotal roles in customer retention. Guidelines provided by Behl et al. [8] emphasize leveraging modern technology and production techniques to achieve product competitiveness and excel in competitive markets. There has been a lot

of scholarly interest in how AI and IT tools affect supply chain management (SCM), especially in the automotive sector. The transformative potential of these technologies in boosting supply chain efficiency and competitiveness is highlighted in this literature review, which summarizes major findings from recent studies.

### **Information Technology Tools in Supply Chain Management**

IT tools that provide real-time data and enhanced supply chain visibility, such as internet of things (IoT), enterprise resource planning (ERP), and advanced data analytics, have completely changed SCM. ERP systems, according to Kumar et al., [5], make it easier to integrate different supply chain tasks, which improves coordination and decision-making. IoT devices make it possible to track shipments and inventory in real time, which greatly cuts down on delays and improves logistics operations. Advanced data analytics enables precise demand forecasting and inventory management, both of which are critical to maintaining supply and demand equilibrium in the automotive industry [2].

It has been demonstrated that integrating IT tools into SCM increases operational effectiveness, lowers costs, and boosts customer satisfaction. By eliminating the need for physical infrastructure and facilitating scalability, Singh and Sharma [1], for example, show how the adoption of cloud-based SCM solutions can result in significant cost savings. Real-time data sharing also promotes transparency and trust among supply chain participants, all of which are necessary for productive teamwork and risk management.

### **Artificial Intelligence in Supply Chain Management**

AI technologies, such as machine learning, predictive analytics, and autonomous systems, provide sophisticated answers to challenging supply chain problems. Large-scale data can be analyzed by AI-driven predictive analytics to improve inventory levels, spot possible disruptions, and forecast demand more precisely [1]. Algorithms for machine learning can improve delivery schedules and route optimization, which can lower transportation costs and improve delivery performance.

Gupta et al. [2] point out that AI applications in SCM can greatly enhance operational efficiency and decision-making processes in the context of the Indian automotive industry. To reduce excess inventory and minimize stockouts, manufacturers can better align their production schedules with market demands with the aid of AI-powered demand forecasting. Robotic process automation (RPA) and other autonomous systems can automate routine tasks, freeing up human resources for more strategic endeavors.

### **Challenges and Opportunities in the Indian Automotive Sector**

Even with the obvious advantages of IT and AI in SCM, the Indian automotive sector still has several obstacles when it comes to implementing these technologies. High implementation costs, a shortage of qualified staff, and resistance to change are all major obstacles, according to Chandak and Kumar [7]. On the other hand, Indian automakers are investing in technological advancements due to growing competition and pressure to meet international standards.

According to the literature, these obstacles can be addressed by taking a strategic approach to technology adoption that is backed by industry cooperation and governmental regulations. Policies that encourage technological innovation and offer workforce training programs can hasten the adoption of IT and AI in SCM, as highlighted by Mohsen [3].

The efficiency and competitiveness of the Indian automotive industry could be significantly increased by integrating AI and IT tools into SCM. Although there are obstacles to overcome, supply chain performance can be significantly improved by the thoughtful application of these technologies in conjunction with supportive policies. To fully realize the potential of IT and AI in SCM, industry collaboration and ongoing research are imperative. Table 1 represents various enablers of IT and AI that influence SCM of Indian automobile industries.

**Table 1.** Enablers of information technology (IT) and artificial intelligence (AI) that affect supply chain management (SCM) of Indian automobile industries.

Code	Driver	Description	Impact	Citation
ADA	Advanced Data Analytics	Large-scale force chain data analysis is accomplished through the application of daedal algorithms and data processing techniques in advanced data analytics. Businesses can use this to improve decision-making processes, optimize inventory situations, and gain insight into demand patterns.	Businesses can improve overall supply chain efficiency, get more accurate market trend predictions, and cut down on excess inventory by utilizing advanced data analytics.	Singh & Sharma (2014) [1]
IoT	Internet of Things	IoT technology allows for real-time data exchange and monitoring by establishing connections between physical objects, machinery, and automobiles via the internet.	IoT provides better visibility throughout the supply chain, enabling proactive equipment maintenance, better inventory management, and real-time shipment tracking. As a result, there is less downtime and greater operational effectiveness.	Gupta et al. (2023) [2]
AIML	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	Demand forecasting, inventory management, and route optimization are just a few of the supply chain operations that AI and machine learning technologies automate and optimize using data-driven algorithms.	Supply chain responsiveness is increased, and operating costs are decreased when AI and machine learning are used to automate repetitive tasks, optimize transportation routes, and improve forecasting accuracy.	Mohsen (2023) [3]
CC	Cloud Computing	Cloud computing offers adaptable and scalable IT infrastructure, facilitating real-time information sharing and collaboration between supply chain participants via cloud-based platforms.	Cloud computing lowers IT expenses, increases data accessibility, and eliminates the need for physical infrastructure. This facilitates improved communication and expedites decision-making along the entire supply chain.	Singh and Sharma (2014) [1]
RPA	Robotic Process Automation	To automate repetitive and routine tasks in the supply chain, like order processing, data entry, and inventory updates, RPA uses software robots.	RPA makes processes more efficient, lowers the possibility of human error, and frees up human labor for more strategic tasks. Higher productivity and more efficient supply chain operations result from this.	Chandak and Kumar (2020) [7]
BT	Blockchain Technology	Blockchain technology offers a transparent and safe ledger for transaction recording, which is especially helpful for guaranteeing authenticity and traceability in the supply chain.	Due to its immutable record of transactions, blockchain increases trust among supply chain partners, decreases fraud, and increases transparency. Improved supply chain processes and improved compliance follow from this.	Gupta et al. (2023) [2]
DT	Digital Twins	Real-time monitoring and simulation are made possible by digital twin technology, which builds a virtual image of the physical assets, systems, and processes in the supply chain.	Through simulations, digital twins can predict possible problems, optimize processes, and offer insightful information about how well a system is performing. Decision-making and operational efficiency are improved as a result.	Wason et al. (2020) [9]
BDA	Big Data Analytics	To find patterns, trends, and correlations, big data analytics analyzes vast and complicated data	Businesses can boost supply chain networks, improve risk management, and improve demand forecasting by utilizing big data	Maheshwari et al. (2021) [10]

Code	Driver	Description	Impact	Citation
		sets that are produced throughout the supply chain.	analytics. This enhances the performance of the supply chain as a whole and leads to better strategic decisions.	
CPS	Cyber-Physical Systems	To facilitate intelligent interactions and automation within the supply chain, CPS integrates computation, networking, and physical processes.	Supply chain operations are made more reliable, flexible, and efficient by CPS's improvements to real-time data exchange, process automation, and system monitoring.	Rajput and Singh (2018) [11]
AR	Augmented Reality	Augmented reality (AR) technology improves the visualization and interaction of supply chain data and processes by superimposing digital information on the real world.	By offering real-time visual guidance and information, AR enhances warehouse operations, training, and maintenance. This boosts worker efficiency, increases accuracy, and expedites the completion of tasks.	Sharma et al. (2022) [12]

### Research Approach

India is transforming from developing to a developed nation. The Indian economy is anchored by the automobile sector. The current study's goal is to use AI and IT to collect data from the automotive industry about supply chain management. The Indian automobile industry faces several obstacles in its quest to compete in global markets. This research will assist the Indian automotive industry in addressing the global market in a calculated manner. Since technology is advancing quickly and is being used by all international players to improve supply chain management, it is imperative that IT and AI be used in this field. The main objective of this study is to determine and evaluate the different IT and AI enablers that impact supply chain management in the Indian automotive sector. The Indian government has been concentrating on the Digital India plan for the past 10 years to strengthen the country's economy.

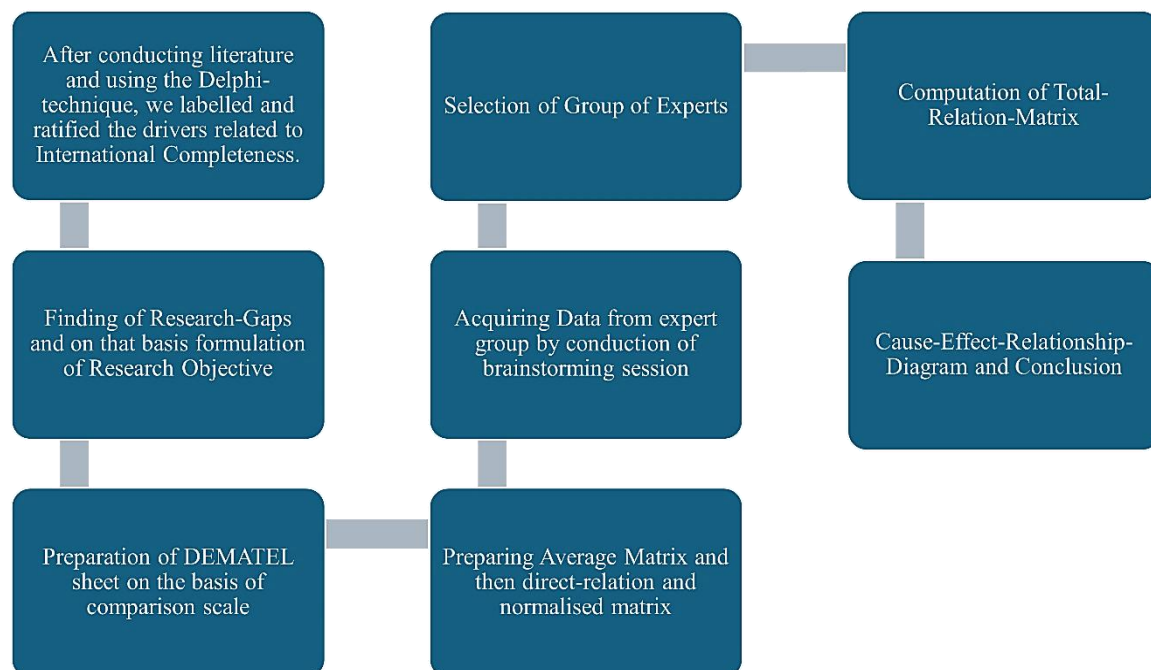
Consequently, the Indian government offers numerous schemes to bolster the country's automotive sector. All of India's industries will compete as a result, fostering the country's economic development. Ten enablers in all were found after a comprehensive literature review. Through an expert panel led by the case enterprise, the input data for these 10 Enablers for the Decision-Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL) analysis was obtained. The total number of experts were chosen for data collection, and the Delphi technique was employed. These 16 experts are all key personnel of the course company, all at the managerial level. These professionals have all worked for the company for more than 10 years and have a combined experience of more than 15 years. Each of these professionals has over 10 years of experience working in the fields of SCM and IT. These specialists were chosen based on their knowledge of IT and AI as well as their specialization in SCM for global marketing.

“Expert intelligences may be significant in the absence of reliable scientific explanation,” as noted by Dalkey and Helmer in 1963 [13]. A universal, iterative process known as the Delphi technique uses structured, unidentified conclusions and effective fine-tuning to elicit responses from a diverse range of professionals with varying backgrounds. This study used the Delphi technique, which is a popular approach for creating assessment index systems through expert consultation. A precise methodology comprising multiple steps was adhered to by the researchers. In the beginning, they organized brainstorming sessions, held group discussions, consulted with experts, and carried out an extensive literature review. The experts' views on general information, authority evaluation, and the assessment of indicator significance, representativeness, and feasibility were then incorporated by the researchers into the development of a Delphi questionnaire. According to Bike and Ruichang [14], the self-assessed authorities assigned a score of one for total agreement or two for partial agreement to each indicator based on its significance, representativeness, and feasibility. Sixteen experts of automobile organizations are designated as panel members in this study. To prevent bias in the outcome, experts are

chosen from a range of backgrounds and areas of expertise. The mean values of Table 2 present the tabulated data gathered from each of the 16 experts. Based on expert input, the procedures were carried out using the DEMATEL technique, as shown in Figure 1.

### The DEMATEL (Decision-Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory) Technique

The challenges are causally related, with the DEMATEL process being used to identify the more significant ones. Confirming the model's strength is done through an understanding assessment. The given detail provides a broad sketch of each action in the model. Cause and effect enablers that will SCM and effectiveness in the Indian automobile industry are identified through the application of the DEMATEL technique. DEMATEL gives policymakers quantifiable observations of challenges using diagrams and matrices [15]. Ten enablers are connected, and this relationship is used to gather expert panel opinions on a four-point scale from the case organization Tables 3 to 5. Experts are asked to weigh in on the relative impacts of the two enablers using the DEMATEL comparison scale. Zero for no influence, one for low influence, and two for medium influence; while three for very high influence/high influence. Figure 1 represents the methodology adopted for conducting the research .



**Figure 1.** Methodology adopted for conduction the research.

**Table 2.** Average Matrix

Enablers	ADA	IoT	AIML	CC	RPA	BT	DT	BDA	CPS	AR
ADA	0	3.24	3.15	3.32	3.36	3.33	3.5	3.22	3.14	3.35
IoT	3.25	0	3.6	3.25	3.41	3.33	3.18	3.26	3.4	3.32
AIML	3.33	3.26	0	3.3	3.41	3.41	3.33	3.18	3.55	3.32
CC	3.6	3.33	3.35	0	3.18	3.3	3.33	3.25	3.18	3.3
RPA	3.4	3.5	3.25	3.3	0	3.58	3.36	3.17	3.25	3.2
BT	3.33	3.6	3.25	3.33	3.2	0	3.6	3.3	3.41	3.18
DT	3.25	3.2	3.18	3.41	3.25	3.33	0	3.2	3.4	3.6
BDA	3.6	3.33	3.33	3.4	3.25	3.18	3.25	0	3.66	3.25
CPS	3.4	3.33	3.2	3.6	3.33	3.33	3.2	3.2	0	3.25
AR	3.2	3.35	3.2	3.6	3.51	3.32	3.55	3.45	3.2	0

**Table 3.** Normalized direct relation matrix.

Enablers	ADA	IoT	AIML	CC	RPA	BT	DT	BDA	CPS	AR
ADA	0.0000	0.1066	0.1037	0.1093	0.1106	0.1096	0.1152	0.1060	0.1034	0.1103
IoT	0.1070	0.0000	0.1185	0.1070	0.1122	0.1096	0.1047	0.1073	0.1119	0.1093
AIML	0.1096	0.1073	0.0000	0.1086	0.1122	0.1122	0.1096	0.1047	0.1169	0.1093
CC	0.1185	0.1096	0.1103	0.0000	0.1047	0.1086	0.1096	0.1070	0.1047	0.1086
RPA	0.1119	0.1152	0.1070	0.1086	0.0000	0.1178	0.1106	0.1043	0.1070	0.1053
BT	0.1096	0.1185	0.1070	0.1096	0.1053	0.0000	0.1185	0.1086	0.1122	0.1047
DT	0.1070	0.1053	0.1047	0.1122	0.1070	0.1096	0.0000	0.1053	0.1119	0.1185
BDA	0.1185	0.1096	0.1096	0.1119	0.1070	0.1047	0.1070	0.0000	0.1205	0.1070
CPS	0.1119	0.1096	0.1053	0.1185	0.1096	0.1096	0.1053	0.1053	0.0000	0.1070
AR	0.1053	0.1103	0.1053	0.1185	0.1155	0.1093	0.1169	0.1136	0.1053	0.0000

**Table 4.** Total relationship matrix.

Enablers	$W = D(I - D)^{-1}$										
	ADA	IoT	AIML	CC	RPA	BT	DT	BDA	CPS	AR	R-i
ADA	7.8005	7.8462	7.6975	7.9341	7.7932	7.8421	7.8909	7.6343	7.8523	7.7645	78.0556
IoT	7.9903	7.8424	7.8004	8.0258	7.8865	7.9346	7.9753	7.7254	7.9520	7.8551	78.9878
AIML	8.0130	7.9597	7.7143	8.0477	7.9067	7.9571	7.9998	7.7430	7.9763	7.8753	79.1929
CC	7.9557	7.8975	7.7509	7.8849	7.8369	7.8901	7.9355	7.6826	7.9023	7.8115	78.5479
RPA	7.9958	7.9472	7.7925	8.0285	7.7870	7.9428	7.9816	7.7244	7.9494	7.8534	79.0027
BT	8.0385	7.9941	7.8360	8.0741	7.9262	7.8815	8.0324	7.7709	7.9981	7.8967	79.4484
DT	7.9476	7.8953	7.7475	7.9872	7.8401	7.8922	7.8379	7.6825	7.9094	7.8207	78.5605
BDA	8.0570	7.9980	7.8490	8.0874	7.9387	7.9874	8.0343	7.6838	8.0159	7.9096	79.5610
CPS	7.9551	7.9022	7.7514	7.9956	7.8455	7.8956	7.9366	7.6858	7.8122	7.8146	78.5947
AR	8.0787	8.0308	7.8771	8.1251	7.9775	8.0233	8.0747	7.8171	8.0358	7.8448	79.8849
C-i	79.8323	79.3134	77.8167	80.1905	78.7381	79.2469	79.6990	77.1498	79.4038	78.4461	

**Table 5.** Cause and effect relationship.

Enablers	R-i	C-i	R-i + C-i	R-i - C-i	Identify
ADA	78.056	79.832	157.888	-1.777	Effect
IoT	78.988	79.313	158.301	-0.326	Effect
AIML	79.193	77.817	157.010	1.376	Cause
CC	78.548	80.190	158.738	-1.643	Effect
RPA	79.003	78.738	157.741	0.265	Cause
BT	79.448	79.247	158.695	0.202	Cause
DT	78.561	79.699	158.259	-1.138	Effect
BDA	79.561	77.150	156.711	2.411	Cause
CPS	78.595	79.404	157.998	-0.809	Effect
AR	79.885	78.446	158.331	1.439	Cause

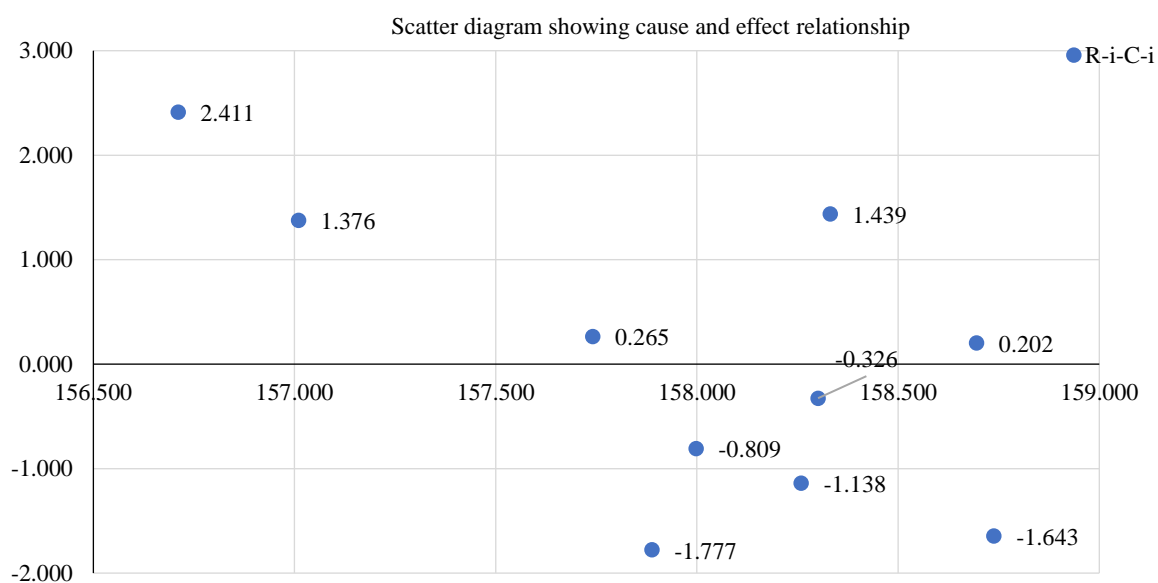
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Objective of this paper is to determine impact and relation of enablers of IT Tools and AI identified from literature review on SCM of Indian automobile industry. To identify relationship data were collected from 16 experts from a case organisation. Table 6 represents ranking of enablers identified from Multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) DEMATEL analysis.

As per Table 6 (Ri + Ci) value is highest for driver CC (cloud computing) and lowest for driver BDA (big data analysis). The driver BT (block chain technology) is in second position and linked with other enablers. The driver AR (augmented reality) is in third position on the ranking table and has a relationship with other enablers. This result will help the industry and practitioners to make marketing decisions accordingly (Figure 2).

**Table 6.** Ranking of enablers with cause and effect.

Ranking	Enablers	R-i	C-i	R-i + C-i	Identity
1	CC	78.548	80.190	158.738	Effect
2	BT	79.448	79.247	158.695	Cause
3	AR	79.885	78.446	158.331	Cause
4	IoT	78.988	79.313	158.301	Effect
5	DT	78.561	79.699	158.259	Effect
6	CPS	78.595	79.404	157.998	Effect
7	ADA	78.056	79.832	157.888	Effect
8	RPA	79.003	78.738	157.741	Cause
9	AIML	79.193	77.817	157.010	Cause
10	BDA	79.561	77.150	156.711	Cause

**Figure 2.** Scatter diagram for cause-and-effect relationship.

Five enablers that have negative value of (di-ri), namely, ADA (advanced data analytics) (-1.777), IoT (internet of things) (-0.326), CC (cloud computing) (-1.643), DT (digital twins) (-1.138), and CPS (cyber physical systems) (-0.809) are registered in effect category enablers. From cause-and-effect scatter diagram it is clear that driver CC (cloud computing) has the highest influence on SCM.

## CONCLUSION

SCM is consistently involved in managing internal company operations while addressing complex external business challenges. Consequently, supply chain managers may often overlook the various enablers that could significantly enhance their operational efficiency. This research aims to identify and analyze these enablers, providing evidence-based solutions that will facilitate strategic growth in SCM in Indian automobile industries. By understanding the interrelationships among these enablers, managers can improve their global competitiveness and work towards optimizing and streamlining their supply chain processes. This study employed rigorous methodologies to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings, thereby contributing to the existing body of knowledge in supply chain management.

This study identifies 10 key enablers of IT tools and AI that significantly impact SCM in the Indian automobile industry. These enablers were assessed through a systematic evaluation of expert opinions. The validity of the findings was established via rigorous expert evaluations and an exhaustive review of relevant academic and industry literature addressing the specific challenges of the Indian automobile

industry. The research framework was constructed based on inputs provided by 16 subject-matter experts within a case organization. The DEMATEL method was employed to rigorously analyze and verify the causal relationships among the complexities and ambiguities encountered, ensuring a robust and reliable understanding of these interdependencies.

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