

**FACTORS AFFECTING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)
INTEGRATION IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN
(A CASE OF FURNITURE PALACE INTERNATIONAL (K) LIMITED)**

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ABSTRACT

The integration of Information Technology (IT) is spreading at an impeccable rate in Supply Chain Management (SCM). Thus, the increasing rate of technology growth is helpful in coordinating the activities leading to an effective management in the supply chain Day by day, companies seek to improve the supply chain efficiency by enabling information technology integration; thus this has resulted to an increase in the use of IT in SCM. Information technology is considered as a principal enabler for supply chain management via information sharing. This refers to a rapid data transfer in the supply chain; leading to an increased cooperation between the supply chain and an increased efficiency throughout the supply chain. The principal motive of this research is to determine the role as well as the relationship of information technology integration in and the supply chain performance according to a specific company: Furniture Palace International (k) Ltd Kenya. On this account, it was vital to closely analyze the factors affecting IT integration in the supply chain initially. The findings of this study support that the structure of the supply chain management have strong effects on Furniture Palace International (k) Ltd Kenya. This implies that the impact of information technology in the supply chain management shows that there are various integration dimensions and levels, and different influencing actors. Organizational structure is realized as a strong point in determining the balance between differentiation and integration.

Key Words: Supply Chain Management, Performance, Information technology integration,

supply chain