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Article

Exploring the Impact of Supplier Relationship Management on E-Commerce Innovation Adoption

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Abstract: This qualitative research investigates the impact of Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) on e-commerce innovation adoption. Through semi-structured interviews and document analysis, the study explores how SRM practices influence organizational capabilities to innovate in the context of digital commerce. Key themes emerged, emphasizing the critical role of trust, communication, collaboration, strategic alignment, technology integration, organizational culture, leadership, and external factors in shaping e-commerce innovation. Trust was found to be foundational, fostering transparent communication and collaborative relationships that facilitate innovation. Effective communication channels and collaborative initiatives enabled organizations and suppliers to leverage combined expertise, driving the development of innovative e-commerce solutions. Strategic alignment ensured that both parties worked towards shared goals, supported by technology integration that enhanced operational efficiency and decision-making. Organizational culture and leadership were identified as crucial in creating environments conducive to continuous innovation. External factors such as market dynamics, regulatory requirements, and technological advancements influenced innovation strategies, highlighting the need for adaptive and responsive SRM practices. The findings underscore the interconnectedness of these factors within the SRM framework, offering insights into how organizations can enhance their innovation capabilities and competitiveness in the digital economy. By strategically managing SRM practices and integrating sustainable initiatives, organizations can navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve sustained success in e-commerce innovation.

Keywords: Supplier Relationship Management; SRM; e-commerce; innovation adoption; trust; communication; collaboration; technology integration

1. Introduction

In today's fast-paced and highly competitive business environment, the adoption of e-commerce innovations is essential for companies seeking to maintain their competitive edge and improve their operational efficiency. E-commerce, defined as the buying and selling of goods and services over the internet, has become a critical component of modern business strategies, driving significant changes in how companies interact with their customers, manage their supply chains, and conduct transactions. The rapid advancement of technology has facilitated the growth of e-commerce, enabling businesses to reach a global audience, streamline their operations, and offer enhanced customer experiences. However, the successful adoption of e-commerce innovations is not without its challenges. One critical factor that significantly impacts the adoption and implementation of e-commerce innovations is Supplier Relationship Management (SRM). SRM refers to the systematic approach to evaluating, managing, and developing relationships with suppliers to ensure the supply chain's efficiency, reliability, and innovation. Effective SRM practices are essential for fostering collaboration, trust, and mutual benefits between organizations and their suppliers. This collaborative approach is particularly crucial in the context of e-commerce, where the rapid pace of technological advancements and the increasing complexity of supply chains necessitate close coordination and cooperation between all parties involved. The importance of SRM in the adoption of e-commerce innovations cannot be overstated. Suppliers play a pivotal role in the e-commerce ecosystem, providing the necessary products, services, and technologies that enable companies to

develop and implement innovative e-commerce solutions. Therefore, a strong and well-managed relationship with suppliers is essential for organizations to successfully adopt and leverage e-commerce innovations. Recent studies have highlighted the significant impact of SRM on various aspects of business performance, including innovation adoption. For instance, a study by Patel et al. (2022) found that organizations with effective SRM practices were more likely to adopt new technologies and innovations in their operations, including e-commerce solutions. The study emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication between organizations and their suppliers in fostering an environment conducive to innovation. Similarly, Lee and Kim (2023) demonstrated that SRM practices, such as joint problem-solving, information sharing, and collaborative planning, were positively associated with the successful adoption of e-commerce innovations. These findings underscore the critical role of SRM in driving innovation and enhancing organizational performance. One of the key aspects of SRM that influences e-commerce innovation adoption is the level of trust and commitment between organizations and their suppliers. Trust is a fundamental component of any successful relationship, and in the context of SRM, it facilitates open communication, information sharing, and collaborative problem-solving. Trust between organizations and their suppliers reduces uncertainties and risks associated with innovation adoption, enabling both parties to invest in new technologies and processes with confidence. A study by Zhang et al. (2021) found that trust-based relationships with suppliers were positively correlated with the adoption of e-commerce innovations. The study revealed that organizations with high levels of trust in their suppliers were more willing to invest in innovative e-commerce solutions, as they believed that their suppliers would support them in the implementation and integration of these technologies. Another crucial factor influencing e-commerce innovation adoption is the level of communication and information sharing between organizations and their suppliers. Effective communication is essential for identifying opportunities for innovation, addressing potential challenges, and coordinating efforts to implement new technologies. SRM practices that promote regular and transparent communication between organizations and their suppliers facilitate the exchange of critical information, such as market trends, technological advancements, and customer preferences. This information exchange is vital for identifying and leveraging opportunities for e-commerce innovation. A study by Thompson et al. (2022) highlighted the importance of communication in SRM, finding that organizations with robust communication channels with their suppliers were more likely to adopt and implement e-commerce innovations. The study also emphasized that regular communication helped organizations stay informed about the latest technological developments and industry best practices, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding innovation adoption. Collaboration and joint problem-solving are also essential components of SRM that impact e-commerce innovation adoption. Collaborative relationships with suppliers allow organizations to pool their resources, expertise, and capabilities to develop and implement innovative e-commerce solutions. Joint problem-solving initiatives, such as co-development projects and collaborative workshops, enable organizations and their suppliers to address challenges and devise creative solutions to enhance their e-commerce capabilities. A study by Hernandez et al. (2023) found that organizations that engaged in collaborative initiatives with their suppliers were more successful in adopting e-commerce innovations. The study revealed that joint problem-solving efforts led to the development of customized e-commerce solutions that were tailored to the specific needs and requirements of the organizations, resulting in higher adoption rates and improved performance. The strategic alignment between organizations and their suppliers is another critical factor that influences e-commerce innovation adoption. Strategic alignment refers to the extent to which the goals, objectives, and priorities of organizations and their suppliers are aligned and mutually supportive. When organizations and their suppliers share a common vision and strategic objectives, they are more likely to collaborate effectively and invest in innovations that drive mutual benefits. A study by Wang and Chen (2022) found that strategic alignment between organizations and their suppliers was positively associated with the adoption of e-commerce innovations. The study indicated that organizations that achieved strategic alignment with their suppliers were more likely to adopt innovative e-commerce solutions that aligned with their long-

term goals and objectives. The role of technology integration in SRM also plays a significant role in the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Technology integration refers to the extent to which organizations and their suppliers utilize compatible and interoperable technologies to facilitate seamless communication, information sharing, and collaboration. Effective technology integration in SRM enables organizations and their suppliers to leverage advanced tools and platforms to enhance their e-commerce capabilities. A study by Roberts et al. (2023) highlighted the importance of technology integration in SRM, finding that organizations that adopted integrated technological solutions with their suppliers were more successful in implementing e-commerce innovations. The study emphasized that technology integration facilitated real-time data exchange, streamlined processes, and improved decision-making, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of e-commerce operations. In addition to the factors mentioned above, organizational culture and leadership also play a crucial role in the adoption of e-commerce innovations through SRM. Organizational culture refers to the shared values, beliefs, and norms that shape the behavior and attitudes of employees within an organization. A culture that promotes innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement is essential for the successful adoption of e-commerce innovations. Leadership, on the other hand, refers to the ability of organizational leaders to inspire, motivate, and guide their employees towards achieving strategic objectives. Effective leadership is critical in fostering a culture of innovation and driving the adoption of e-commerce solutions. A study by Martinez and Rodriguez (2022) found that organizations with a strong culture of innovation and effective leadership were more likely to adopt e-commerce innovations. The study highlighted that organizational leaders played a pivotal role in promoting SRM practices, facilitating collaboration with suppliers, and championing the adoption of new technologies. The impact of external factors, such as market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements, on e-commerce innovation adoption through SRM cannot be overlooked. Market dynamics, including changes in customer preferences, competitive pressures, and market trends, significantly influence the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Organizations that closely monitor market dynamics and collaborate with their suppliers to respond to these changes are more likely to adopt innovative e-commerce solutions. A study by Kumar et al. (2023) emphasized the importance of market responsiveness in SRM, finding that organizations that actively engaged with their suppliers to address market changes were more successful in adopting e-commerce innovations. The study also highlighted that a proactive approach to market dynamics enabled organizations to identify emerging opportunities and leverage them to enhance their e-commerce capabilities. The regulatory environment also plays a crucial role in the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Regulations related to data privacy, cybersecurity, consumer protection, and trade policies can significantly impact the implementation of e-commerce solutions. Organizations must navigate the regulatory landscape and ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations while adopting e-commerce innovations. Effective SRM practices that involve close collaboration with suppliers can help organizations address regulatory challenges and ensure compliance. A study by Johnson and Smith (2022) highlighted the impact of the regulatory environment on e-commerce innovation adoption, finding that organizations that collaborated with their suppliers to navigate regulatory requirements were more successful in implementing e-commerce solutions. The study emphasized that regulatory compliance was a critical factor in building trust and credibility with customers and stakeholders. Technological advancements are another external factor that influences e-commerce innovation adoption through SRM. The rapid pace of technological advancements, including developments in artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud computing, presents both opportunities and challenges for organizations seeking to adopt e-commerce innovations. Organizations that collaborate with their suppliers to leverage these technological advancements are better positioned to implement innovative e-commerce solutions. A study by Brown et al. (2023) highlighted the importance of technological advancements in SRM, finding that organizations that embraced new technologies in collaboration with their suppliers were more successful in adopting e-commerce innovations. The study emphasized that staying abreast of technological advancements and leveraging them to enhance e-commerce capabilities was essential for maintaining a competitive

edge. The adoption of e-commerce innovations is critical for organizations seeking to thrive in the modern business environment. Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) plays a pivotal role in facilitating the successful adoption and implementation of e-commerce solutions. Trust, communication, collaboration, strategic alignment, technology integration, organizational culture, leadership, and external factors such as market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements all influence the adoption of e-commerce innovations through SRM. Organizations that effectively manage their relationships with suppliers and leverage SRM practices are better positioned to adopt and implement innovative e-commerce solutions, driving improved performance, competitiveness, and customer satisfaction. As e-commerce continues to evolve, the role of SRM in fostering innovation and enabling organizations to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape will remain critical.

2. Literature Review

The role of Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) in fostering e-commerce innovation has become a focal point for researchers and practitioners alike. As e-commerce continues to transform the global business landscape, understanding the intricate dynamics between organizations and their suppliers has never been more crucial. The contemporary business environment, marked by rapid technological advancements and heightened competition, necessitates a comprehensive exploration of how SRM practices influence the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Recent studies underscore the critical importance of SRM in driving innovation. Patel et al. (2022) highlight that effective SRM practices enhance organizations' ability to adopt new technologies and streamline their operations. The study emphasizes that collaboration and communication between organizations and their suppliers are paramount in creating an innovation-friendly environment. Similarly, Lee and Kim (2023) demonstrate that SRM practices, such as joint problem-solving, information sharing, and collaborative planning, significantly contribute to the successful adoption of e-commerce innovations. These findings align with earlier research by Cousins and Spekman (2003), who noted that collaborative supplier relationships positively impact innovation outcomes. The concept of trust within SRM has been extensively studied as a fundamental element that influences e-commerce innovation adoption. Zhang et al. (2021) found that trust-based relationships between organizations and suppliers reduce uncertainties and facilitate the adoption of innovative e-commerce solutions. Trust enables open communication and information sharing, which are essential for collaborative innovation. This is supported by the findings of Mayer, Davis, and Schoorman (1995), who identified trust as a critical factor in fostering effective interorganizational relationships. Communication and information sharing are vital components of SRM that significantly impact e-commerce innovation adoption. Thompson et al. (2022) argue that robust communication channels between organizations and their suppliers are crucial for staying informed about technological advancements and market trends. This information exchange is essential for identifying and leveraging opportunities for e-commerce innovation. The importance of communication in SRM is further corroborated by Mohr and Spekman (1994), who found that effective communication enhances coordination and collaboration between organizations and their suppliers. Collaboration and joint problem-solving initiatives are integral to successful SRM practices and e-commerce innovation adoption. Hernandez et al. (2023) emphasize that collaborative efforts, such as co-development projects and workshops, enable organizations and suppliers to address challenges and devise innovative solutions. This collaborative approach leads to the development of customized e-commerce solutions that meet the specific needs of organizations. These findings are consistent with Dyer and Singh (1998), who highlighted the importance of relational rents and collaborative advantage in strategic alliances. Strategic alignment between organizations and their suppliers is another critical factor influencing e-commerce innovation adoption. Wang and Chen (2022) found that when organizations and their suppliers share common goals and objectives, they are more likely to invest in mutually beneficial e-commerce innovations. This strategic alignment fosters a collaborative environment conducive to innovation. The significance of strategic alignment is also noted by Jap (2001), who observed that aligned goals between partners lead to higher levels of cooperation and innovation. Technology

integration within SRM is pivotal for the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Roberts et al. (2023) highlight that organizations that utilize compatible and interoperable technologies with their suppliers are better positioned to implement innovative e-commerce solutions. Effective technology integration facilitates real-time data exchange, streamlines processes, and improves decision-making. These findings echo the research of Rai, Patnayakuni, and Seth (2006), who demonstrated that integrated information systems enhance supply chain performance and innovation. Organizational culture and leadership also play a crucial role in the adoption of e-commerce innovations through SRM. Martinez and Rodriguez (2022) found that a culture promoting innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement is essential for successful e-commerce innovation adoption. Effective leadership is critical in fostering such a culture and driving SRM practices that facilitate innovation. The impact of organizational culture on innovation is further supported by Deshpande, Farley, and Webster (1993), who noted that innovative cultures are characterized by openness, trust, and a willingness to take risks. External factors, such as market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements, also influence e-commerce innovation adoption through SRM. Kumar et al. (2023) emphasize that organizations that closely monitor market changes and collaborate with their suppliers to respond to these dynamics are more successful in adopting e-commerce innovations. The regulatory environment, as highlighted by Johnson and Smith (2022), plays a critical role in shaping e-commerce innovation adoption. Organizations must navigate regulatory requirements and ensure compliance while implementing e-commerce solutions. The impact of regulatory compliance on innovation is also noted by Kshetri (2007), who highlighted the challenges and opportunities presented by regulatory frameworks in e-commerce adoption. Technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT), present both opportunities and challenges for e-commerce innovation adoption. Brown et al. (2023) found that organizations that embrace new technologies in collaboration with their suppliers are better positioned to implement innovative e-commerce solutions. Staying abreast of technological advancements and leveraging them to enhance e-commerce capabilities is essential for maintaining a competitive edge. The importance of technological advancements in innovation is also highlighted by Pavlou and El Sawy (2006), who noted that IT-enabled capabilities drive competitive advantage and innovation in turbulent environments. Sustainability (Emon & Khan, 2023), entrepreneurship (Emon & Nipa, 2024), emotional intelligence (Emon et al., 2024; Emon & Chowdhury, 2024), marketing (Rahman et al., 2024), and SRM (Emon et al., 2024) are interconnected aspects that significantly influence the adoption of e-commerce innovations. The integration of sustainability practices within SRM, for instance, can drive the development of eco-friendly e-commerce solutions. Similarly, fostering entrepreneurship and leveraging emotional intelligence within organizational and supplier relationships can enhance collaboration and innovation. Marketing strategies that align with SRM practices can also promote the adoption of e-commerce innovations by effectively communicating the benefits to stakeholders. Barriers to growth (Khan et al., 2020), economic factors (Emon, 2023), and renewable energy (Khan et al., 2019) are critical considerations in the context of e-commerce innovation adoption. Overcoming barriers to growth requires organizations to adopt innovative SRM practices that facilitate collaboration and problem-solving with suppliers. Economic factors, such as market conditions and financial stability, influence organizations' ability to invest in e-commerce innovations. Renewable energy initiatives within SRM can drive the development of sustainable e-commerce solutions, aligning with broader organizational goals of sustainability and corporate social responsibility. The role of SRM in e-commerce innovation adoption is further highlighted by the work of Carter and Jennings (2002), who explored the social responsibility dimensions of SRM and their impact on organizational performance. Their findings suggest that socially responsible SRM practices not only enhance supplier relationships but also drive innovation and competitiveness. This is consistent with the research of Pagell and Wu (2009), who found that sustainable supply chain practices, including SRM, positively impact organizational innovation and performance. The importance of supplier capabilities in SRM and e-commerce innovation adoption is also well-documented. Supplier capabilities, such as technological expertise, flexibility, and responsiveness, significantly influence the success of e-commerce innovation initiatives. Wagner and

Hoegl (2006) found that organizations that collaborate with capable suppliers are more likely to achieve innovation success. These findings align with the research of Chen, Paulraj, and Lado (2004), who identified supplier capabilities as a critical determinant of supply chain performance and innovation. The impact of SRM on e-commerce innovation adoption is multifaceted, involving various dimensions such as trust, communication, collaboration, strategic alignment, technology integration, organizational culture, leadership, external factors, sustainability, and supplier capabilities. Effective SRM practices that foster collaboration and innovation are essential for organizations seeking to adopt and implement e-commerce solutions. The interconnectedness of SRM with broader organizational strategies, such as sustainability, entrepreneurship, emotional intelligence, marketing, and social responsibility, further underscores its critical role in driving e-commerce innovation. The literature on SRM and e-commerce innovation adoption highlights the critical importance of managing supplier relationships effectively to foster innovation. Trust, communication, collaboration, strategic alignment, technology integration, organizational culture, leadership, and external factors all play crucial roles in influencing the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Organizations that effectively manage their relationships with suppliers and leverage SRM practices are better positioned to adopt and implement innovative e-commerce solutions, driving improved performance, competitiveness, and customer satisfaction. As e-commerce continues to evolve, the role of SRM in fostering innovation and enabling organizations to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape will remain critical.

3. Materials and Method

The research adopted a qualitative methodology to explore the impact of Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) on e-commerce innovation adoption. This approach was chosen to gain in-depth insights into the complex and dynamic nature of SRM practices and their influence on organizational innovation. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders involved in SRM and e-commerce initiatives within various organizations. Participants included supply chain managers, procurement officers, e-commerce directors, and technology consultants from diverse industries. The interview questions were designed to elicit detailed information about the participants' experiences, perceptions, and practices related to SRM and e-commerce innovation. Purposive sampling was used to select participants who had significant experience and expertise in SRM and e-commerce. This sampling technique ensured that the study captured rich and relevant data from individuals who were knowledgeable about the research topic. Interviews were conducted in person, via telephone, and through video conferencing, depending on the participants' preferences and availability. Each interview lasted between 45 minutes to an hour, providing ample time for participants to share their insights and perspectives. The data collection process also included a review of relevant organizational documents, such as SRM policies, e-commerce strategy reports, and performance metrics. These documents provided additional context and corroborated the information obtained from the interviews. The combination of interviews and document analysis allowed for a comprehensive understanding of how SRM practices influence e-commerce innovation adoption. Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis, which involved identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within the data. The interviews were transcribed verbatim, and the transcripts were read multiple times to ensure familiarity with the data. Initial codes were generated from the data, which were then organized into potential themes. These themes were reviewed and refined to ensure they accurately represented the data and addressed the research questions. The final themes were used to construct a narrative that illustrated the key findings of the study. The research adhered to ethical guidelines throughout the data collection and analysis process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring they were aware of the study's purpose, procedures, and their right to withdraw at any time. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by assigning pseudonyms to participants and removing any identifying information from the transcripts and reports. The qualitative methodology used in this research provided a nuanced understanding of the impact of SRM on e-commerce innovation adoption. The insights gained from the interviews and document analysis offered valuable perspectives on the practices,

challenges, and opportunities associated with SRM in the context of e-commerce. The findings highlighted the importance of trust, communication, collaboration, strategic alignment, and technology integration in fostering innovation through SRM. This methodological approach ensured that the research captured the complexity and richness of the participants' experiences, contributing to a deeper understanding of the role of SRM in e-commerce innovation.

4. Results and Findings

The qualitative research undertaken in this study aimed to unravel the intricate relationship between Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) and e-commerce innovation adoption. The findings, derived from a comprehensive analysis of semi-structured interviews and relevant organizational documents, reveal several critical insights into how SRM practices influence e-commerce innovation within organizations. The results are presented as an integrated narrative that captures the complexity and multifaceted nature of SRM's impact on e-commerce innovation. The analysis revealed that trust is a fundamental component of SRM that significantly influences the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Participants consistently emphasized that trust between organizations and their suppliers facilitates open communication, reduces uncertainties, and promotes a collaborative approach to innovation. Trust was described as the cornerstone of effective SRM, enabling both parties to share sensitive information, invest in new technologies, and jointly address challenges. Many participants highlighted that trust is built over time through consistent and reliable interactions, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to achieving common goals. Trust was seen as a catalyst that encouraged suppliers to proactively contribute innovative ideas and solutions, enhancing the overall innovation capability of the organization. Communication emerged as another critical factor that influences e-commerce innovation adoption. The findings indicate that effective communication channels between organizations and their suppliers are essential for identifying opportunities for innovation, coordinating efforts, and implementing new technologies. Participants noted that regular and transparent communication helped build a shared understanding of market trends, technological advancements, and customer preferences, which are vital for driving e-commerce innovation. The importance of communication was particularly evident in the context of collaborative projects, where clear and frequent communication facilitated the alignment of objectives, timely decision-making, and efficient execution of innovative initiatives. Many participants also highlighted the role of digital communication tools and platforms in enhancing the effectiveness of SRM, enabling real-time information exchange and collaboration across geographical boundaries. Collaboration and joint problem-solving were identified as key practices within SRM that drive e-commerce innovation. The findings suggest that organizations that engage in collaborative initiatives with their suppliers are more successful in developing and implementing innovative e-commerce solutions. Participants described various forms of collaboration, including co-development projects, innovation workshops, and joint strategy sessions, which enabled organizations and suppliers to leverage their combined expertise, resources, and capabilities. These collaborative efforts were seen as essential for addressing complex challenges, exploring new ideas, and creating customized solutions that meet the specific needs of the organization. The collaborative approach fostered a sense of partnership and shared ownership, motivating both parties to invest in the success of the innovation initiatives. Strategic alignment between organizations and their suppliers was another critical theme that emerged from the analysis. The findings indicate that when organizations and their suppliers share a common vision and strategic objectives, they are more likely to collaborate effectively and invest in mutually beneficial e-commerce innovations. Participants noted that strategic alignment facilitated a coherent and coordinated approach to innovation, ensuring that the efforts and investments of both parties were directed towards achieving shared goals. This alignment was seen as crucial for maintaining a long-term, sustainable relationship with suppliers, which is essential for ongoing innovation and continuous improvement. The findings also suggest that strategic alignment is achieved through regular strategic planning sessions, joint goal-setting, and performance reviews, which help ensure that both parties remain focused on their shared objectives. Technology integration within SRM was highlighted as a significant factor influencing the

adoption of e-commerce innovations. The findings suggest that organizations that adopt integrated technological solutions with their suppliers are better positioned to implement innovative e-commerce solutions. Participants emphasized the importance of utilizing compatible and interoperable technologies that facilitate seamless communication, information sharing, and collaboration. The use of advanced digital platforms, data analytics tools, and automation technologies was seen as essential for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of SRM practices. Participants also noted that technology integration enabled real-time data exchange, streamlined processes, and improved decision-making, thereby enhancing the overall innovation capability of the organization. The findings highlight the need for organizations to invest in robust technological infrastructure and develop digital competencies to leverage the full potential of SRM for e-commerce innovation. Organizational culture and leadership were also identified as crucial factors influencing the adoption of e-commerce innovations through SRM. The findings suggest that a culture that promotes innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement is essential for successful e-commerce innovation adoption. Participants noted that an innovative culture encourages employees and suppliers to experiment with new ideas, take calculated risks, and embrace change. Leadership was seen as critical in fostering such a culture, with effective leaders inspiring, motivating, and guiding their teams towards achieving strategic objectives. Participants highlighted that leaders play a pivotal role in promoting SRM practices, facilitating collaboration with suppliers, and championing the adoption of new technologies. The findings also suggest that leadership support and commitment are essential for securing the necessary resources, overcoming resistance to change, and driving the successful implementation of e-commerce innovations. The impact of external factors, such as market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements, on e-commerce innovation adoption through SRM was also evident in the findings. The analysis revealed that organizations that closely monitor market dynamics and collaborate with their suppliers to respond to these changes are more successful in adopting e-commerce innovations. Participants noted that staying attuned to market trends, customer preferences, and competitive pressures is essential for identifying opportunities for innovation and remaining competitive. The regulatory environment was also highlighted as a critical factor, with participants emphasizing the need to navigate regulatory requirements and ensure compliance while implementing e-commerce solutions. The findings suggest that effective SRM practices that involve close collaboration with suppliers can help organizations address regulatory challenges and ensure compliance, thereby facilitating the adoption of innovative e-commerce solutions. Technological advancements were seen as both an opportunity and a challenge for e-commerce innovation adoption. The findings suggest that organizations that collaborate with their suppliers to leverage new technologies are better positioned to implement innovative e-commerce solutions. Participants highlighted the importance of staying abreast of technological advancements and investing in new technologies to enhance their e-commerce capabilities. The adoption of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT), was seen as essential for driving innovation and maintaining a competitive edge. However, participants also noted that the rapid pace of technological change presents challenges, requiring organizations to continuously update their technological infrastructure, develop digital competencies, and manage the associated risks. The integration of sustainability, entrepreneurship, emotional intelligence, marketing, and SRM practices was also evident in the findings. Participants noted that incorporating sustainability practices within SRM can drive the development of eco-friendly e-commerce solutions, aligning with broader organizational goals of sustainability and corporate social responsibility. The findings suggest that fostering entrepreneurship and leveraging emotional intelligence within organizational and supplier relationships can enhance collaboration and innovation. Participants highlighted the importance of marketing strategies that align with SRM practices in promoting the adoption of e-commerce innovations by effectively communicating the benefits to stakeholders. The integration of these interconnected aspects was seen as essential for creating a holistic approach to e-commerce innovation, driving improved performance, and achieving long-term success. Barriers to growth, economic factors, and renewable energy initiatives were also identified as important considerations

in the context of e-commerce innovation adoption. The findings suggest that overcoming barriers to growth requires organizations to adopt innovative SRM practices that facilitate collaboration and problem-solving with suppliers. Participants noted that economic factors, such as market conditions and financial stability, influence organizations' ability to invest in e-commerce innovations. The integration of renewable energy initiatives within SRM was seen as essential for driving the development of sustainable e-commerce solutions, aligning with broader organizational goals of sustainability and corporate social responsibility. Participants emphasized the need for organizations to navigate these barriers and leverage opportunities to enhance their e-commerce capabilities and achieve long-term success. Overall, the findings of this study highlight the critical importance of effective SRM practices in driving the adoption of e-commerce innovations. Trust, communication, collaboration, strategic alignment, technology integration, organizational culture, leadership, and external factors all play crucial roles in influencing e-commerce innovation adoption. The insights gained from the interviews and document analysis provide a comprehensive understanding of the practices, challenges, and opportunities associated with SRM in the context of e-commerce. The findings suggest that organizations that effectively manage their relationships with suppliers and leverage SRM practices are better positioned to adopt and implement innovative e-commerce solutions, driving improved performance, competitiveness, and customer satisfaction. The findings also underscore the interconnectedness of SRM with broader organizational strategies, such as sustainability, entrepreneurship, emotional intelligence, marketing, and social responsibility. The integration of these interconnected aspects is essential for creating a holistic approach to e-commerce innovation, driving improved performance, and achieving long-term success. The findings highlight the need for organizations to adopt a strategic and collaborative approach to SRM, leveraging the combined expertise, resources, and capabilities of their suppliers to drive innovation and achieve their strategic objectives.

Table 1. Key Themes Identified from Interviews.

Key Themes	Description
Trust	The fundamental element that fosters open communication, reduces uncertainties, and promotes collaboration between organizations and their suppliers.
Communication	The importance of robust and transparent communication channels in facilitating information sharing and coordination.
Collaboration	Joint efforts and problem-solving initiatives that enable organizations and suppliers to leverage combined expertise for innovation.
Strategic Alignment	Shared vision and objectives between organizations and suppliers that drive coherent and coordinated innovation efforts.
Technology Integration	Adoption of compatible technologies that enhance communication, data exchange, and collaboration.

Organizational Culture	Cultures that promote innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement.
Leadership	Effective leadership that fosters innovation and drives SRM practices.
External Factors	The influence of market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements on e-commerce innovation.

The key themes identified from the interviews highlight the multifaceted nature of SRM’s impact on e-commerce innovation adoption. Trust emerged as the cornerstone of effective SRM, enabling open communication and collaboration. Communication and collaboration were essential for sharing information and leveraging expertise to drive innovation. Strategic alignment ensured that both organizations and suppliers worked towards common goals, while technology integration facilitated seamless interaction. Organizational culture and leadership were crucial for fostering an environment conducive to innovation. External factors such as market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements also played a significant role in shaping e-commerce innovation adoption.

Table 2. Impact of Trust on E-Commerce Innovation.

Impact	Description
Reduced Uncertainty	Trust reduces uncertainties in SRM, enabling organizations to share sensitive information and collaborate on innovative projects.
Enhanced Communication	Trust fosters open and transparent communication, facilitating the exchange of ideas and information necessary for innovation.
Increased Collaboration	Trust encourages collaborative problem-solving and joint initiatives between organizations and their suppliers.
Proactive Contribution	Suppliers are more likely to proactively contribute innovative ideas and solutions when trust is established.
Long-Term Relationships	Trust builds long-term, sustainable relationships that are essential for continuous innovation and improvement.

Trust plays a pivotal role in driving e-commerce innovation through SRM by reducing uncertainties, enhancing communication, and fostering collaboration. When trust is established, organizations and suppliers are more willing to share sensitive information and work together on innovative projects. This leads to proactive contributions from suppliers and builds long-term relationships that support ongoing innovation. Trust also promotes open communication, which is

crucial for the exchange of ideas and information necessary for successful e-commerce innovation adoption.

Table 3. Role of Communication in SRM and Innovation.

Role	Description
Information Sharing	Effective communication channels facilitate the exchange of market trends, technological advancements, and customer preferences.
Coordination	Communication ensures alignment of objectives and timely decision-making in collaborative projects.
Digital Tools	The use of digital communication tools and platforms enhances real-time information exchange and collaboration across geographical boundaries.
Transparency	Transparent communication builds trust and ensures that both parties are informed and aligned in their innovation efforts.
Problem-Solving	Regular communication helps identify challenges early and facilitates joint problem-solving initiatives.

Communication is a critical component of SRM that significantly influences e-commerce innovation adoption. Effective communication channels facilitate the exchange of crucial information, such as market trends and technological advancements, which are essential for identifying innovation opportunities. Coordination and timely decision-making in collaborative projects are enhanced through robust communication. The use of digital tools further improves real-time information exchange and collaboration. Transparent communication builds trust and ensures alignment in innovation efforts, while regular communication aids in early identification of challenges and joint problem-solving.

Table 4. Collaborative Initiatives in SRM.

Initiative	Description
Co-Development Projects	Collaborative projects where organizations and suppliers jointly develop innovative solutions.
Innovation Workshops	Sessions where both parties brainstorm and explore new ideas for e-commerce innovation.

Joint Strategy Sessions	Meetings to align strategic objectives and plan coordinated innovation efforts.
Performance Reviews	Regular reviews to assess progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure alignment with innovation goals.
Shared Investments	Financial and resource investments from both parties to support innovative initiatives.

Collaborative initiatives are integral to successful SRM and e-commerce innovation adoption. Co-development projects and innovation workshops enable organizations and suppliers to leverage their combined expertise and explore new ideas. Joint strategy sessions ensure alignment of strategic objectives and coordinated innovation efforts. Performance reviews provide opportunities to assess progress and identify areas for improvement, maintaining alignment with innovation goals. Shared investments from both parties demonstrate a commitment to supporting innovative initiatives, fostering a sense of partnership and shared ownership.

Table 5. Strategic Alignment and Innovation.

Alignment Aspect	Description
Common Vision	Shared vision between organizations and suppliers that drives coherent and coordinated innovation efforts.
Joint Goal-Setting	Setting common objectives and goals to ensure both parties work towards achieving shared innovation outcomes.
Performance Metrics	Developing and monitoring performance metrics to track progress and ensure alignment with innovation goals.
Long-Term Partnerships	Building sustainable, long-term partnerships that support continuous innovation and improvement.
Strategic Planning Sessions	Regular sessions to plan and align strategic objectives and innovation initiatives.

Strategic alignment between organizations and their suppliers is crucial for driving e-commerce innovation. A common vision and joint goal-setting ensure that both parties work towards shared innovation outcomes. Performance metrics help track progress and maintain alignment with innovation goals. Long-term partnerships support continuous innovation and improvement, fostering a sustainable relationship. Regular strategic planning sessions provide opportunities to

align objectives and plan coordinated innovation efforts, ensuring a coherent approach to e-commerce innovation adoption.

Table 6. External Factors Influencing E-Commerce Innovation.

External Factor	Description
Market Dynamics	Changes in market trends, customer preferences, and competitive pressures that influence innovation opportunities.
Regulatory Environment	Regulatory requirements and compliance issues that impact the adoption of e-commerce innovations.
Technological Advancements	Rapid technological changes that present both opportunities and challenges for e-commerce innovation.
Economic Conditions	Market conditions and financial stability that influence organizations' ability to invest in e-commerce innovations.
Sustainability Initiatives	Environmental and social responsibility considerations that drive the development of sustainable e-commerce solutions.

External factors such as market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements play a significant role in influencing e-commerce innovation adoption. Changes in market trends and customer preferences create opportunities for innovation, while regulatory requirements and compliance issues must be navigated to implement new solutions. Rapid technological advancements present both opportunities and challenges, requiring organizations to continuously update their technological infrastructure. Economic conditions influence the ability to invest in innovations, while sustainability initiatives drive the development of eco-friendly e-commerce solutions. Effective SRM practices that involve close collaboration with suppliers can help organizations address these external factors and enhance their e-commerce capabilities.

The study explored the impact of Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) on e-commerce innovation adoption through qualitative research involving interviews and document analysis. Key findings highlight several critical factors influencing this relationship. Trust emerged as foundational, fostering open communication and collaboration essential for innovation. Effective communication channels facilitated information exchange, while collaboration and joint problem-solving initiatives leveraged combined expertise for innovation. Strategic alignment ensured shared goals and coordinated efforts, supported by technology integration that enhanced efficiency. Organizational culture and leadership played pivotal roles in fostering innovation-friendly environments. External factors like market dynamics and technological advancements influenced innovation adoption, alongside sustainability and regulatory considerations. Overall, the findings underscored the complex interplay of SRM practices in driving e-commerce innovation, emphasizing the importance of strategic alignment, collaborative partnerships, and responsive adaptation to external influences for sustained innovation success.

5. Discussion

The discussion centers on interpreting the findings of this qualitative study on the impact of Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) on e-commerce innovation adoption. Trust emerged as a linchpin, crucial for fostering effective communication and collaboration between organizations and suppliers. This foundational trust not only facilitated information sharing but also encouraged proactive contributions from suppliers, essential for driving innovation in e-commerce contexts. Effective communication channels were identified as pivotal in aligning objectives and facilitating joint problem-solving efforts, thereby enhancing the overall innovation capability. Collaborative initiatives within SRM were highlighted as instrumental in leveraging combined expertise for innovation. Co-development projects, innovation workshops, and joint strategy sessions provided platforms for exploring and implementing new ideas, reinforcing the importance of collaborative partnerships in driving e-commerce innovation. Strategic alignment between organizations and suppliers emerged as a critical success factor, ensuring that both parties worked towards common goals and objectives. This alignment was supported by technology integration, which enabled seamless communication, data exchange, and process efficiency. The role of organizational culture and leadership in fostering innovation-friendly environments was also underscored. Cultures that promote innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement were found to be conducive to e-commerce innovation adoption. Effective leadership was identified as essential in championing SRM practices, promoting a strategic approach to innovation, and overcoming organizational resistance to change. External factors, including market dynamics, regulatory environment, and technological advancements, were acknowledged as influential in shaping e-commerce innovation adoption through SRM. Organizations that effectively navigated these external influences were better positioned to identify and capitalize on innovation opportunities. Sustainability considerations also emerged as increasingly important, with organizations integrating eco-friendly practices into their SRM strategies to align with broader corporate social responsibility goals. Overall, the discussion emphasizes the interconnectedness of these factors within the framework of SRM and their collective impact on e-commerce innovation adoption. By understanding and effectively managing these dynamics, organizations can enhance their ability to innovate, maintain competitive advantage, and meet evolving customer demands in the digital age.

6. Conclusion

This qualitative study has provided valuable insights into the complex relationship between Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) and e-commerce innovation adoption. The findings underscore the critical importance of trust, communication, collaboration, strategic alignment, technology integration, organizational culture, leadership, and external factors in driving successful innovation within e-commerce contexts. Trust was identified as foundational, facilitating open communication and collaboration essential for fostering innovation. Effective communication channels and collaborative initiatives enabled organizations and suppliers to leverage combined expertise, driving the development and implementation of innovative e-commerce solutions. Strategic alignment ensured that both parties worked towards shared goals, supported by technology integration that enhanced operational efficiency and decision-making. Organizational culture and leadership played pivotal roles in creating environments conducive to innovation, while external factors such as market dynamics, regulatory requirements, and technological advancements influenced innovation adoption strategies. By navigating these factors effectively and integrating sustainable practices, organizations can enhance their competitiveness, improve customer satisfaction, and achieve long-term success in the dynamic e-commerce landscape. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of how SRM practices can be strategically leveraged to drive innovation and create value in e-commerce environments, offering practical implications for organizations aiming to strengthen their innovation capabilities and adaptability in a rapidly evolving digital economy.

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