

An empirical review of lean manufacturing and their strategies

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ABSTRACT

The theory of lean manufacturing provides the quality of the products in minimum cost and provides customer satisfaction. Today, the competition level is very high and every industry tries to supply high quality products in nominal cost, so lean is the latest tool to achieve. The objective of this paper is to study different lean concepts under various lean strategies. This study helps to find out the status of lean manufacturing and its ways of implementation. Also in this paper, there is a discussion about lean manufacturing concept, lean waste, lean strategies, lean barriers and cycle of lean implementation. This paper presents a literature review to clear the status of lean manufacturing and their strategies with help of collection of relevant papers.

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1. Introduction

Lean manufacturing is a discrepancy on the idea of efficiency based on optimizing flow. Lean manufacturing help to attract manufacturing operations and pick up the industrial jobs and customer satisfaction (Sing et al., 2010). When lean manufacturing is successfully followed, there is a good growth in the quality and the output productivity and also reduction in the completed wares inventory and work process (Seth & Gupta, 2005). The main goal of lean manufacturing is to help out the manufacturers who wish to progress the industry operations and best quality with good customer satisfactions in less amount. In manufacturing sector, there were new philosophies to produce maximum quantities by creating fewer unwanted activities. Proper implementation of different parameters profit will be much more (Delattre, 2002). Lean manufacturing lifts in overall production output and power up customer and the employee's job satisfaction (Soriano-Meier et al., 2002; Singh et al., 2010; Rose et al., 2013).

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After the finishing of World War 2, lean manufacturing was developed by Japanese manufacturers mainly in automotive industry. That time was a problem of shortage of materials, money and human resources. In Toyota motor company, Eiji toyoda and Taiichi ohno set a concept of “Toyota Production System”, and today known as “Lean Manufacturing.” The main concept after the system is to eliminate the wastage. After the quick success of lean manufacturing in Japan, other firms and industries, mainly in US, copied this amazing system. The expression “Lean” is defined as less utilization, in term of all inputs, to create the same outputs, as those shaped by a predictable mass production system, while contributory increased varieties for the end customer. The performance of smooth flow finds out quality problems that previously existed, and thus waste decline naturally happens as an end result. Lean Manufacturing (LM) has been widely recommended by different industries because LM eliminates waste without additional requirements of resources (Bhamu & Sangwan, 2012; Vamsi et al., 2014).

Current world is going from an era of disconnect national economies to the networked world economy. The beginning of liberalization, privatization and globalization has brought forth profound economic, social, environmental and technological pressures on the organizations. Competition has become more difficult, stronger and the customers are more demanding. Rivalry is severed in all aspects of production such as cost, quality of service product and technology (Poksinska, 2010; Pekuri et al., 2012).

1.1 Lean Manufacturing Strategies

When lean manufacturing concept was developed the main question was that which strategies will be more successive for this concept. After study literature, the result was in form of the number of strategies which can be used here. So this lean concept becomes a flexible system in which the strategies can be added, merged and be further explored as per requirement. Some lean strategies are:

- *5S*
- *Automation*
- *Continuous Flow*
- *Continuous Improvement*
- *Kan-Ban*
- *Kaizen*
- *Single Minute Exchange to Die (SMED)*
- *Cellular Manufacturing*
- *Six Sigma*
- *Team Development/Training*
- *Total Productive Maintenance*
- *Total Quality Management (TQM)*
- *Value Stream Mapping (VSM)*
- *Visual Management*
- *Work Standardization*
- *Flexible manufacturing System (FMS)*
- *Production leveling*
- *Inventory Management*
- *Zero Defect Concepts*
- *WIP (Work in Process)*
- *Lean Thinking*

In this paper, the main focus is on meaning of lean and its relative terms. There are also some benefits and barriers appear in lean implementation in industries. Some methods and principles are also discussed. Lean manufacturing is very necessary in today's market for manufacturers because this is only one strategy to survive in this competition. Lean manufacturing also focuses to achieve zero waste concept and provides better quality and benefits to customers as well as industry. That's why, this paper tries to give a good review of lean manufacturing for those industries that are following Lean manufacturing or wish to implement Lean in industry.

2. Methodology

This research paper is based on the literature review of lean manufacturing. The complete details were collected by following the number of journals worldwide, national and international conferences, internet and proceedings. In initial stage, there are so many innovation ideas through web and books which provided desirable recourses in research. The optimal solution has been identified by literature review. This paper will help to understand the concept of lean manufacturing, its enablers and barriers

for implementation in industry. The solution is found by studying of numbers of papers on lean implementation, their effects with enabler and barriers. There are more than 25,000 research papers related to lean manufacturing. Then we select those research papers which are directly related to research work. The papers were selected from year 1997 to 2015 which are related to lean manufacturing, leanness, lean implementation, their strategies and lean wastes. All papers are directly collected from Google scholar and related searches. After that we select 102 papers which are related to research work in which lean manufacturing introduction and lean study papers are 28, lean manufacturing implementation papers are 19, lean strategies/tools & techniques papers are 26, lean relation with other strategies papers are 2, and leanness measurement papers are 29. The motive of this paper is to provide better understanding of lean and their strategies for research as well as industry.

3. Literature Review

The thought process of lean was thoroughly described in the book “The Machine That Changed the World” by James P. Womack, Daniel Roos and Daniel T. Jones in 1990.

In a subsequent volume, “Lean”, by James P. Womack and Daniel T. Jones, in 1996. According these books, there are further divided lean principles:

- Specify the value desired by the customer
- Identify the value stream for each product providing that value and challenge all of generally nine out of ten) currently necessary to provide it
- Make the product flow continuously through the remaining value-added steps
- Introduce pull between all steps where continuous flow is possible
- Manage toward perfection so that the number of steps and the amount of time and information needed to serve the customer continually falls

Effective steps for lean manufacturing implementation

There are some effective steps:

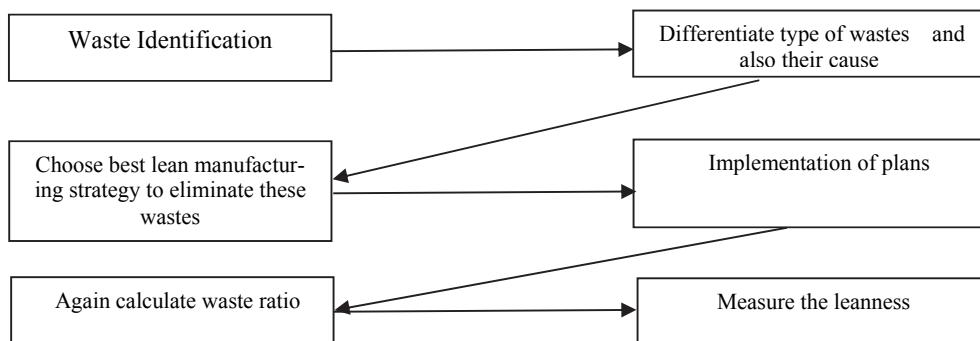


Fig. 1. Lean manufacturing implementation

Waste Identification: Every industry knows that there is some waste but not able to find out all types of hidden and unhidden wastes in industry.

Differentiate type of wastes and also their cause: This is very important to differentiate all types of waste and their causes. If the cause is eliminated then automatically waste will be reduced. There are so many techniques to eliminate different wastages.

Choose best lean manufacturing strategy to eliminate these wastes: In this step, we select a suitable lean manufacturing strategy for the identified wastes. There are many techniques which will give optimum solution for this plan. So we make appropriate plan for elimination.

Implementation of plans: After making plan, next step is implementation the plan.

Again calculate waste ratio: Compare the current waste status with past record.

Leanness measurement: Leanness can be measured with different lean measure techniques.

There are so many techniques which are used in Lean manufacturing. Many authors used different techniques to show the current status of developing countries. Bayou and Korvin (2008) presented the paper which shows the manufacturing leanness is a strategy used to achieve goals in less input to better output. The leanness measurement calculated by seven characteristics: relative, dynamic, long-term fuzzy logical, objective, integrative and comprehensive. Singh et al. (2010) presented a study of lean implementation and benefits in industry with the help of lean tool, value stream mapping (VSM). Paper presented to states of industry: current and future state. This presented the effect of VSM as very effective tool for Lean manufacturing.

3.1 Lean Manufacturing Cycle for Collected Literature Review

According to Karim and Arif-Uz-Zaman (2013), there are some effective methodologies and ways to implement lean manufacturing. But before implementation, we should know what way of implementation is. Lean manufacturing area is very vast but how and which data should be collected from literature, which types of barriers will be there and how solve these, why proper lean implementation is necessary etc., these are all questions which must be cleared in mind. The collection mode is written in below diagram and can implement lean according to this given cycle.

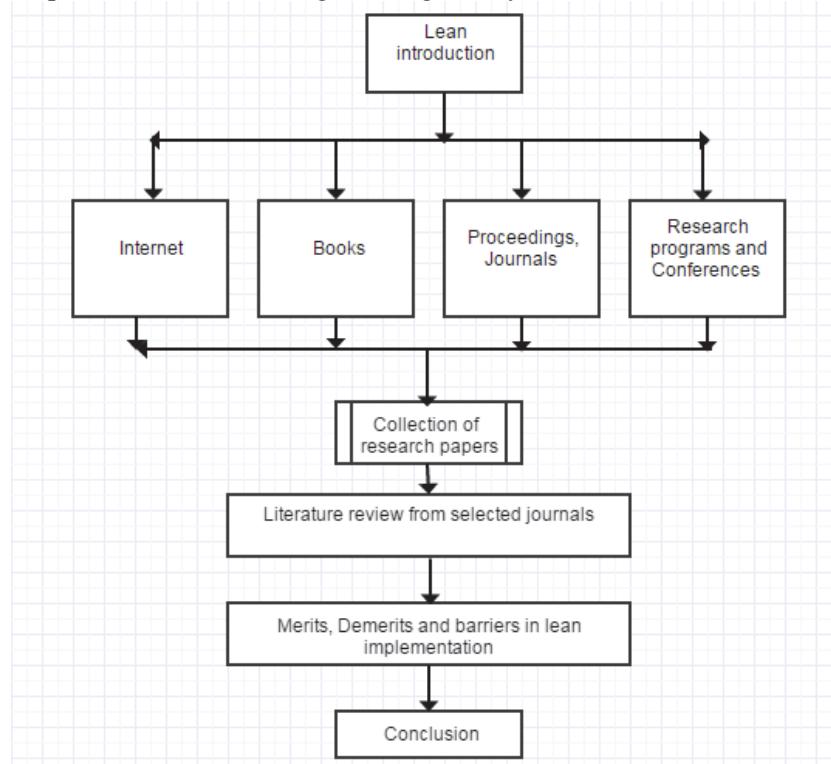


Fig. 2. Lean Manufacturing cycle for collected literature review

3.2 Seven Wastes of Industries

What is industrial waste and why they measures? It is very important question. In simple way," Any unnecessary action which produces unnecessary result called as waste". And lean manufacturing is also developed to eliminate these wastes. According to Hines and Rich (1997), there are basically seven lean industrial wastes which can be eliminated. They impact on industrial performance and reduce industrial output. Waste is nothing but its undesirable actions which are deeply studied below. Lean implementation can't be completed until all waste is removed. But before elimination, it should be know about all wastes which are:

The following are the seven wastes, as categorized by Taiichi Ohno:

- **Overproduction** - Manufacture of products in advance or in excess of demand wastes money, time and space. Overproduction happens when industry produces more than demanded product for future which affect total system. Mostly manufacturers have a reason to manufacture more but most of time it gives loss.
- **Waiting** - Processes are ineffective and time is wasted when one process waits to begin while another finishes. Instead, the flow of operations should be smooth and continuous. According to some estimates, as much as 99 percent of a product's time in manufacture is actually spent for waiting. Waiting for job plan, order, machine parts, e-mail etc., these all are the waiting waste.
- **Transportation** – It's a movement of tools, machine parts, product between workstations which are non-value added activities. It is costly and may be a cause of accident. Movement of material from one work place to another is a waste of time and money.
- **Inappropriate/over processing** – It is a type of waste in which extra processing happens to make it perfect which is expensive. Sometimes, it creates extra waste in form of labor, material, time and money. This processing occurs significant amount of time to take it in shape and, many times, whole system is disturbed.
- **Excessive inventory** - Wastes funds viva carrying costs of inventory storage and preservation. Main important thing to remember is that, inventory is not only in form of raw materials but also finished goods.
- **Unnecessary motion** - Resources are done in when workers have to twist, take an unnecessary motion from workstation distances to other place. Workplace ergonomics appraisal should be conducted to plan more capable surroundings. Other examples include the following:
 1. Re-assembling or arrangement of machine parts to get them into a new manner.
 2. Motion between work stations to get machine tools and parts.
 3. Placing all notes and files al right place.
 4. Placing tools nearby.
- **Defects** - Defects generally happen but not good when they repeat. They provide poor quality, bad customer satisfaction and loss to industry. They also affect sale and price of product. The market value and reliability also decreased. Lean manufacturing is based on a combination of different processes to make industry defect free.

3.3 Techniques used in Lean Manufacturing

According to Paez et al. (2005), Mahdiloo et al. (2014) Miller et al. (2010) and Anand and Kodali (2009), there are so many techniques available in literature but there are some important strategies discussed below which are mostly used. In Table 1, there are some techniques correlated with their requirements.

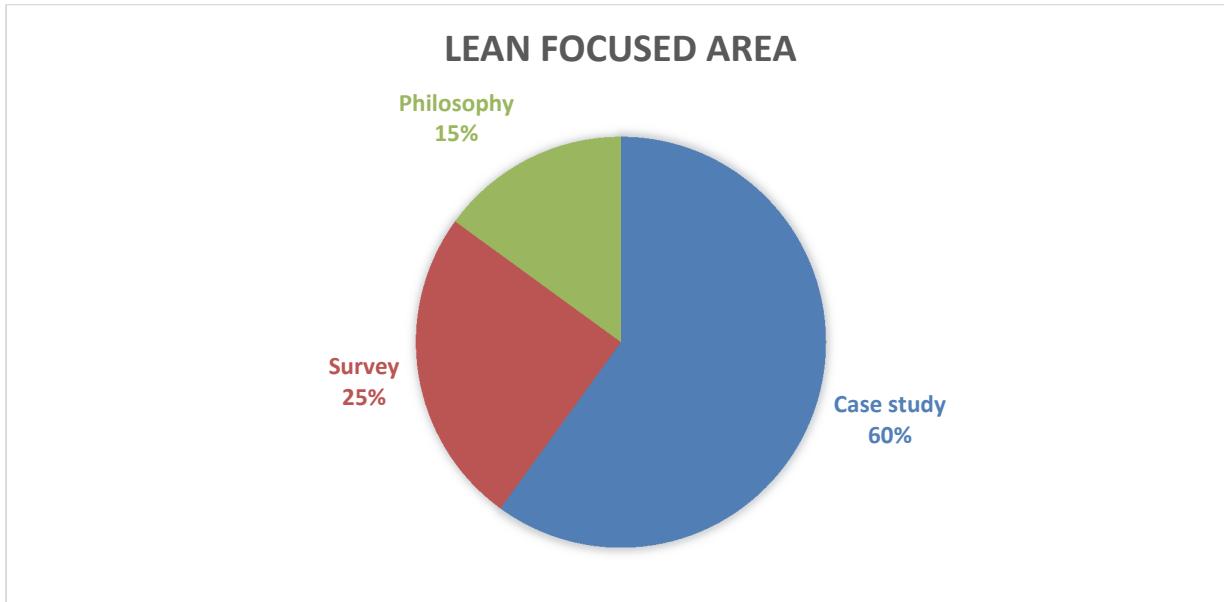
Table 1

The summary of lean manufacturing techniques and requirements

S. No	Lean Manufacturing Techniques	Requirements
1	5S	Reduce wasted time & motion.
2	Automation	Reduce human effort and provide accurate automatic system.
3	Continuous Flow	Ensuring the continuous flow throughout the value stream.
4	Continuous Improvement	Make sure that there is every little improvement every day and improve overall efficiency.
5	Kan-Ban	Schedule production and minimize work-in-process.
6	Kaizen	Change for better every day.
7	Single Minute Exchange to Die (SMED)	To minimize setup time and cost thereby freeing capacity and enabling the production of very small lots.
8	Cellular Manufacturing	Design cells to optimize process for better performance.
9	Six Sigma	Improve quality, operational performance, practices and systems.
10	Team Development/Training	Motivated team has better knowledge of work.
11	Total Productive Maintenance	Ensure uptime, Improve process capability and consistency
12	Total Quality Management (TQM)	Improve quality by preventing defects from occurring.
13	Value Stream Mapping (VSM)	Visualize of processes and their conformance to lean manufacturing principles.
14	Visual Management	To provide immediate, visual information that enables people to make correct decisions and manage their work and activities.
15	Work Standardization	To ensure that all workers execute their tasks in the same manner and thus reduce variation from differences in work method.
22	Flexible manufacturing System (FMS)	<i>To provide a systematic flexible change in manufacturing environment like layout, methods, machine etc.</i>
16	Production leveling	Reduce unevenness and waste in industry.
17	Inventory Management	Put all inventory products in a proper sequence to supply these items in proper network.
18	Zero Defect Concept	To eliminate all possibility which are responsible for wastage.
20	WIP (Work in Process)	WIP is the summation of all investment factors i.e. all types of costs puts during process.
21	Lean Thinking	Discover new ideas to deliver much comfort level and benefits to industry with eliminating waste.

3.4 Lean focused area

As per the study of literature review of lean we have used 102 research papers and the research found that there had been very few areas which focused on practical lean implementation. It was also found that almost lean manufacturing study is divided in basic three areas; Survey, Philosophy and case study. In Fig. 3, the results show that case study is most focused area. According to Gupta and Jain (2013), most of studies are done on case study of different lean manufacturing firms, then survey based study was done and at last not least lean philosophy study was done. But there is a lack of new and practical innovation about lean manufacturing strategies. The below diagram shows the status of lean manufacturing.

**Fig. 3.** Lean focused area

3.5 Technique highlights by Literature for different waste

There are many authors providing important information about lean and lean strategies. From literature study, it is clear that these lean strategies will eliminate different types of industrial waste and they are correlated. Here some papers are collected from literature review which is directly or indirectly related to lean manufacturing. The collections of these papers are based on only lean as master concept. There are also some individual techniques of lean in terms of the number of papers but they are specially related to eliminate respected waste which mention in literature of lean manufacturing. All data is differentiated in lean technique used by different authors. Some authors provide depth detail about used lean strategies and some gives only little introduction about used lean strategy. Main goal is to provide status of lean manufacturing between years, 1997-2015, by collecting some papers. These papers detail provides some interest of different authors also. And these all details are filled in Table 2 as follows,

Table 2
The literature review

	Lean Strategies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Hines and Rich (1997)								✓							
2	Stewart & Adams (1998)						✓									
3	Naylor et al. (1999)		✓	✓												
4	Hines et al. (1999)								✓							
5	Vrijhoef and Koskela (2000)	✓														
6	Bob Carroll (2001)						✓									
7	Meier & Forrester (2001)	✓					✓									
8	Aitken et al. (2002)	✓														
9	Fullerton et al. (2003)	✓								✓						
10	Shah and Ward (2003)	✓					✓	✓								
11	Paez et al. (2004)						✓	✓	✓	✓						
12	Paez et al. (2005)						✓	✓								
13	Goldberg et al. (2006)								✓							
14	Abdulmaleka and Rajgopalb (2007)								✓							
15	Wan & Chen (2008)	✓	✓							✓						
16	Sahoo et al. (2008)									✓			✓			
17	Gautam & Singh (2008)										✓					
18	Pettersen (2009)						✓									
19	Kodali (2009)	✓					✓	✓					✓			
20	Pattanaik & Sharma (2009)								✓							
21	Nordin et al. (2010)	✓					✓	✓	✓							
22	Ramnath et al. (2010)		✓													
23	Singh et al. (2010)	✓		✓							✓					
24	Singh et al. (2010)			✓							✓			✓		
25	Zanjirchi et al.(2010)	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓						
26	Chauhan et.al.(2010)										✓	✓				
27	Detty & Yingling (2010)	✓	✓				✓									
28	Nordin et al.(2010)	✓					✓				✓					
29	Behrouzi and wong (2010)	✓	✓													
30	Seyedhosseini et al. (2011)	✓														
31	Vinodh &Balaji (2011)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
32	Yang et al.(2011)	✓	✓	✓			✓									
33	Schwarz et. al. (2011)							✓		✓	✓					
34	Vinodh & Chinthia (2011)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
35	Cuaa et al. (2011)	✓						✓		✓						
36	Vinodh & Joy (2011)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						
37	Kumar et al. (2011)	✓		✓												
38	Eswaramoorthi et al. (2011)	✓		✓							✓					
39	Rajenthirakumar &Thyla (2011)											✓				
40	Goriwondo et al. (2012)							✓		✓	✓					
41	Gopinath & Freiheit (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓			
42	Alaskari et al. (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓				
43	Satao et al. (2012)	✓		✓					✓							
44	Mohanraj & Sakthivel (2012)							✓	✓	✓						
45	Ghosh (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
46	Vinodh & Vimal (2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			

Table 2
The literature review (Continued)

47	Jainury et al. (2012)	✓	✓				✓	
48	Gupta & Jain (2013)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Karim and Zaman (2013)					✓	✓	✓
50	Krishnan, & Parveen (2013)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
51	Shabeena et al. (2013)							✓
52	Kumar et al. (2013)	✓			✓	✓		
53	Chakraborty et al. (2013)				✓			
54	Kumar & Pandey (2013)				✓			
55	Thirunavukkarasu et al. (2013)				✓		✓	
56	Khadse, Sarode and Wasu (2013)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Bhamu and Sangwan (2013)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Gunasekharan et al. (2014)				✓			✓
59	Jasti & Kodali (2014)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Gupta & Jain (2014)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Sundara et al. (2014)		✓		✓		✓	
62	Aikhuele & Azizi (2014)						✓	✓
63	Basu & Dan (2014)						✓	
64	Zargun & Ashaab (2014)							✓
65	Jadhav et al. (2014)		✓		✓	✓	✓	
66	Obeidata et al. (2014)	✓	✓	✓				✓
67	Modi & Thakkar (2014)				✓			✓
68	Jadhav et al. (2014)	✓		✓		✓		
69	Thanki & Thakkar (2014)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Khanchanapong et al. (2014)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Mostafa et al. (2015)				✓	✓	✓	
72	Achanga et al. (2015)	✓						
73	Wan & Chen (2015)	✓						✓
74	Cottyn et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
75	Amin & Karim (2015)	✓			✓	✓	✓	
76	Hodge et al. (2015)		✓		✓			✓
77	Mohammad et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Jiménez et al. (2015)				✓		✓	
79	Vinodh & Chinth (2015)						✓	✓
80	Parry & Turner (2015)		✓				✓	
81	Patel et al. (2015)						✓	
82	Pakdil & Leonard (2015)		✓	✓			✓	✓
83	Eswaramoorthi (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
84	Jain et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
85	Susilawati et al. (2015)	✓				✓		✓
86	Virdi & Pandya (2015)	✓		✓		✓		
87	Storch (1999)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
88	Isaksson & Seifert (2015)						✓	✓
89	Ozelkan & Galambosi (2015)	✓			✓		✓	
90	Panwar et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
91	Gollan et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
92	Panizzolo et al. (2015)	✓			✓	✓		
93	Bamber & Dale (2015)		✓		✓	✓		
94	Yang et al. (2015)		✓			✓		
95	Nithia et al. (2015)	✓		✓				✓
96	Yang et al. (2015), Yusup et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Green et al. (2015); Ki & Park, (2006)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
98	Brintrup et al. (2015)	✓		✓				
99	Bortolotti et al. (2015)	✓			✓	✓		
100	Belekoukias et al. (2015)	✓			✓	✓		
101	Hartinia & Ciptomulyonob (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
102	Niall Piercy and Nick Rich (2015)	✓			✓		✓	

Note: 1. 5'S 2. JIT 3. Kan-Ban 4. Kaizen 5. TQM 6. SMED 7. TPM 8. VSM 9. Cellular Manufacturing
10. Zero Defect Concept 11. Lean Thinking 12. WIP 13. FMS 14. Inventory Management 15. Production Leveling

3.5 Lean and its Strategies Implementation Barrier

According to Roslin et al. (2014), it is easy to say that lean can be easily implemented anywhere but in practical, it is not easy. Not a single industry will go to change its complete setup without any objection because nobody wants to change until it is highly needed. Workers also suffer when system environment and trend will change. There are some barriers:

1. The main work is to maintain industry on good running condition without any disturbance but it is not possible for management as well as workers. Every little change will shine that can be good or bad (Stanleigh, 2008).
2. Accepting and sudden implementation creates a difficulty to worker. These barriers can be in form of environment, trainings, layout change, responsibility and work output. Lean thinking creates a good skill level and communication that creates a good coordination level and mutual understanding to pass all information (Roslin et al., 2014).
3. Basically, these barriers exist which mostly come out when lean is implemented, i.e.
 - Lack of understanding between workers and managers or management to worker communication gap, and poor understanding of lean manufacturing concepts,
 - Ego factor also a big problem for industries which is vary state to state or area to area etc.,
 - Non motivated employees team with incentives and good targets etc.

3.6 Lean Manufacturing Advantages

According to Forza (1996) and Chahal et al. (2013), lean manufacturing have more advantages over traditional system. Some reasons are discussed below that why use lean manufacturing as primary system:

Table 3

Major differences between lean and traditional manufacturing approaches

S. No	Process	Lean Manufacturing	Tradition Manufacturing
1	Flexibility	High	Low
2	Inventories	As per demand	Excess demand
3	Production	Customer order	Stock
4	Layout	Product flow	Functional
5	Scheduling	Pull	Push
6	Lead time	Short	Long
7	Inspection	100%-by workers	Sampling
8	Empowerment	High	Low
9	Batch size	Small - continuous	High- batch & queue
10	Customer satisfaction	High	Low

Status of different lean strategies as per literature study

In this article, paper shows the status about lean and lean strategies. Different papers provide different status about lean. Here it is the collection of used 102 papers' data to show how papers focus on different lean strategies. It is possible that every lean strategy will not be highlighted every time for work but most of time a single strategy can be used. So in below figure, status shows about it. Vertical side shows the number of papers out of 102 and horizontal side shows the lean strategies.

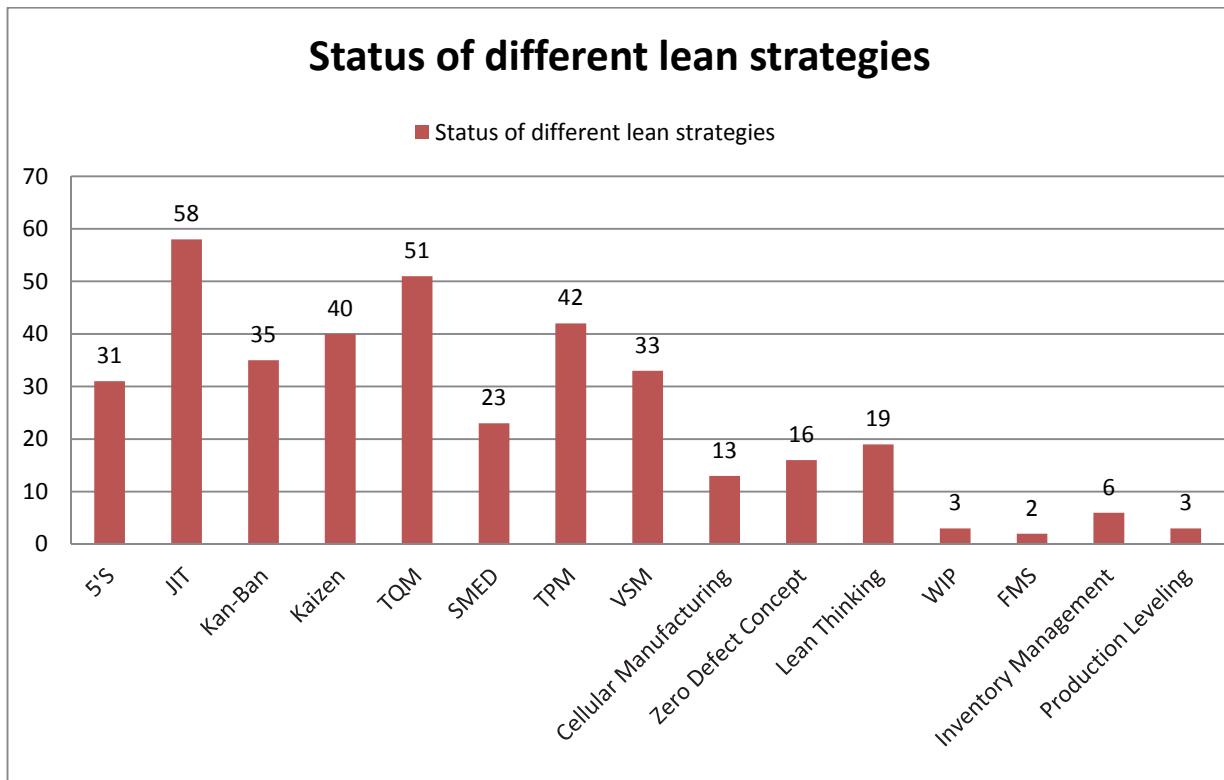


Fig. 5. Status of different lean strategies as per literature study

4. Discussion

Lean is a sea-depth concept in today industrial sector and also for research study. We have found that lean manufacturing concept was followed by industries as a roadmap philosophy. We have also experienced that in manufacturing sectors, lean provides a high impact theory. In this paper, different lean strategies were discussed that can be implemented through providing lean training to all employees. This review paper has highlighted the status of lean and lean strategies by different author's interest. This paper is not the study of all literature review on lean strategies but it is just a try with collection of some lean papers. It's only a collection of some papers and results are based on different collecting parameters. It is just a try to give an overview on the bases of this literature. Here is also some comparison of author's interest about lean manufacturing in India and outside.

5. Conclusion

There is no depth of literature on lean manufacturing to give an in-depth details in actual practice and research area. It is accepted that lean manufacturing is the most profitable concept for both, manufacturing industries as well as customers so lean team prepared by different manufacturing industries (Jainury et al., 2012). All lean strategies are important at their own levels but these all are not used in all manufacturing environment. There are so many reasons like Purchasing cost, implementation time, worker training and layout change, etc. All types of industrial waste can be eliminated by these strategies (Belekovikas et al., 2014; Mabry & Morrison, 1996; Kisombe, 2012). Here, we have used literature papers in which lean strategy was used directly or indirectly. As the result of this research paper, lean manufacturing is very much important in every area of innovation which provided lean manufacturing strategies. But there is a lack of implementation in industry. Only few strategies were implemented thoroughly as shown in Fig. 5. These are some interested strategies which are selected by their own or by default with a reason of money and time to implement. Lean strategies and their effects can be shown by case study of industry and questionnaire study which will show the actual benefit of lean. Lean manufacturing is long lasting benefit system which reduces firm and customer all over tension (Singh

et al., 2010). As per Abdollahi et al. (2015), benefits may be in terms of waste minimization or elimination, time and money benefits, controlled overproduction and inventory, zero delay, systematic arrangement, skilled worker, less work load and best customer satisfaction, etc. but here also some barriers that discussed earlier. They are: money and time to implement, worker behavior, now every industry wants to beneficial change with lean manufacturing due to its impact on production and quality (Behrouzi , & Wong, 2011; Begam et al, 2013; Chakraborttya & Paul, 2011; Diaz-Elsayed et al., 2013; Chiarini, 2013; Harris et al., 2014). Overall, lean is an efficient system to give a new achievement to industry and customers.

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