# Collaboration within a Supply Chain and Corprate Wellness of Digital TV Firms in Rivers State

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Abstract: Surviving and building an advantage in the digital T.V industry depends on how well firms are able to collaborate with other members of their complex supply chain network. This study examined the relationship between collaborative supply chain strategies such as decision synchronization and incentive alignment and Corporate wellness metric, customer patronage. A cross- sectional survey research design was adopted for this study. A population of 36 was adopted, comprising of sales representative, dealer supports and customer care representatives. 36 copies of structured questionnaire was issued out and retrieved. Analysis of the data was done through the use of descriptive tables, charts, and kendall-Tau-b correlation coefficient of the SPSS version 22.0 package. The study concluded that decision synchronization and incentive alignment significantly influence customer patronage. This study recommends that digital T.V firms should imbibe decision synchronization and incentive alignment in order to achieve increased customer patronage.

*Keywords:* Collaboration, Supply chain, corporate wellness, Digital TV, Patronage

### I. INTRODUCTION

The approval of digital switch over in Nigeria, from analogue TV to digital T.V holds a lot of benefits to viewers, citizens, associated firms, government, etc (Maduka, 2014). Digital T.V industry comprises of the upstream and downstream players. The upstream players include multiple system operators (M.S.O), content providers, set-up box producers, signal distributors, etc., while the downstream involves Local cable operators, major dealers and vendors (Maduka, 2014).

The collection of different processes, resources and institutions, needed in customer value creation forms a supply chain (Rajgopal, 2016). When two or more independent firms corporates, by planning and executing supply chain processes to achieve joint objectives, based on some predetermined rules and regulations, we refer to such a supply chain as collaborative(Cao and Zhang, 2011; Ramanathan, 2012). Softwares(ERP, Oracle E-business suite SCM, Epicor SCM) and social media applications(Whatsapp, facebook, twitter, instagram, etc) can be used to foster collaboration among members of a supply chain (Asad, 2013).

Studies (Vanthi and Swamynathan, 2014) examined the relationship between supply chain collaboration and competitive advantage among textile supply chain partners in the Indian textile industry. The research showed that there is a positive relationship between supply chain collaboration (i.e.

top management commitment, information sharing, trust among supply chain partners, risk and reward system) and competitive advantage. Other studies examined the relationship between collaborative tendencies on organizational performance, they all concluded that incentive alignment and decision synchronization have positive influence on customer patronage and satisfaction (Sheeth and Parvatyar, 2002; Gauray, 2008).

This study adopted decision synchronization and incentive alignment as measures of collaboration within a supply chain, considering its continuous validation by various scholars (Simaptung and Sridharan, 2008; Mathuramaytha, 2011; Zacharia et al., 2009; Cao and Zhang, 2011 and Hudnukar et al., 2014) and the peculiarities of digital TV industry in Nigeria, with various players in and out of the country. Customer patronage was used as measure of Corprate wellness because of its measurability and validity in literature (Sheeth and Parvatyar, 2002; Gauray, 2008). This study also examined the moderating effect of the technological environment on the relationship between decision synchronization, incentive alignments and customer patronage.

Decision synchronization can be said to be harmonizing decisions made by members of a supply chain. It enhances decision making which maximizes supply chain performance, through joint demand forecasting, inventory management, and product assortment (Cao and zang, 2011).Incentive alignment involves developing joint procedures to evaluate and make known each other's performance, sharing costs, risk and benefits amongst members of a supply chain and this will encourage members to act in a manner consistent with the overall objective of the supply chain (Scholten and Schlinder, 2015).

Customer patronage is the rate at which customers are willing to make purchases from an organization, are retained and are willing to repeat purchase (Kotler, 2013).

Technological environment can be seen as the use of technology enabled devices in achieving more efficient and effective results. The internet, SCC software's, applications, etc., are important enablers that support in the successful achievement of effective supply chain collaboration (Asad, 2013).

The struggle for survival by many digital TV firms in Nigeria, which transcends into fluctuation in prices charged to final

customers and also the exit of TSTV a promising digital TV firm (Ayoola, 2018), has been a source of worry to the current researcher, perhaps this might be as a result of not properly adopting information sharing, incentive alignment and decision synchronization.

Earlier studies on supply chain collaboration (Simatupang and Sridharan, 2004; Asad, 2013; Marcos et al, 2011; Fawcet and Magnan, 2008; kulp et al., 2004; mentzer et al. 2000; monczka et al., 1998; Vanathi and swamynathan, 2014, etc.), related information sharing, incentive alignment, and decision synchronization to competitive advantage (Simatupang and Sridharan, 2004; mentzer et al. 2000), Customer satisfaction (Vanathi and swamynathan, 2014; Marcos et al, 2011) none has examined the relationship between incentive alignment, decision synchronization on customer patronage in the digital TV industry. This study adopted lewin's force field theory, which has been used by few researchers (Fawcett and Magnan, 2008) in the study of supply chain collaboration. Force field theory, is concerned with change adoption in a system. It sees change as a battle of forces (driving forces and restraining forces)(Lewin, 1951). This theory is considered appropriate for this study since the adoption of the sale of digital T.V is a shift from the conventional analogue TV.

It is on this backdrop that the current researcher wants to go into this study, to fill the knowledge gap that exists.

# II. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Decision synchronization and Customer patronage

Supply chain collaboration can serve as a vehicle for redesigning the decision making, workflow and resources assigned to individual entities to improve the overall performance of the supply chain, through higher profit margins, improved customer service and faster response times (Lee, 2000; Simatupang and sridharan, 2002; Xu and Beamon, 2006).

The benefits of collaboration among supply chain partners can be seen from increased responsiveness toward customer requirement, competitiveness in the market and also the reduction of waste in the supply chain (Nyaga et al., 2010).

When supply chain members are forced to collaborate, desire more participation in the decision-making or disagree on certain issues; and ultimately find they are not in a position to lead any change after all, this may encourage exit behavior if the opportunity exists (Mentzer et al. (2001).

Misuse of power by those in authority can lead to dissension, underperformance from supply chain entities and poor customer patronage (Maloni and Benton, 2000). Based on the above review, the hypothesis below was conceptualized:

*H*<sub>09</sub>; *There is no significant relationship between decision synchronization and Customer patronage of Digital TV firms in Rivers State.* 

### Incentive Alignment and Customer patronage

In order to develop successful partnership, profits and losses should be equally distributed among the partners. Hence, the supply chain partners need to act in rational ways to achieve the mutually agreed objectives as a collective responsibility (Salmela et al., 2011). The retailers can motivate their suppliers to become involved in quick response by sharing point of sales data, and in return, the suppliers can share their delivery schedules. Furthermore, the retailer regularly notifies the sales performance of suppliers' important products and keeps records of the suppliers' delivery performances. The suppliers can keep track of their points by accessing their scorecard online. The retailer can translate these points into monetary rewards or penalties that will pass to the suppliers at the end of a specific pay period. Both parties commit themselves to maintaining high customer service with low inventory costs under this arrangement (Simatupang and Sindhran, 2005).

For an effective incentive sharing scheme to be developed, there are three basic questions that supply chain partners need to consider, they include 1) how the incentive can be linked with overall performance, 2) how the incentive is to be paid and 3) What level of incentive is to be paid (Scholten, 2015). Fairness is particularly essential in the allocation of collaboration's outcomes in order to maintain the relationship between supply chain members (Jap, 2001).

There are two basic processes to introduce behaviour-based incentive: design and delivery. Firstly, participating members need to agree with the strategic objectives and how to motivate the partners to achieve each of these objectives. The schemes include determining which types of activities that need to be measured to improve the objective attainment. Identifying these activities and their associated rewards is useful in giving immediate recognition to the partner's efforts (Simatupang and Sindhran, 2005). Based on the above review the hypothesis below was conceptualized

 $H_{06}$ : There is no significant relationship between incentive alignment and customer patronage of Digital TV firms in Rivers State.

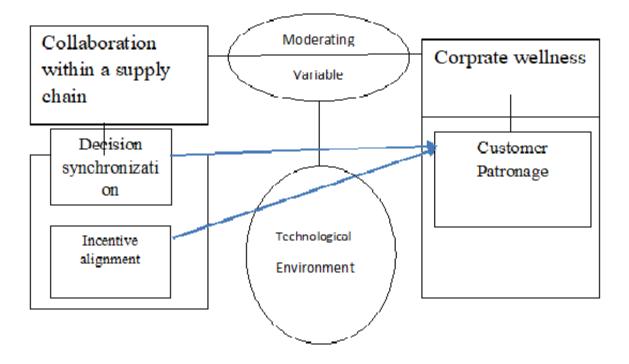


Figure 1: Operational Framework on Collaboration within a Supply Chain and Corprate wellness of Digital TV firms in Port Harcourt.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the explanatory and cross- sectional survey approach. The explanatory survey measures the antecedent factors that cause Corprate wellness (cause-andeffect); thereby leading to building and /or validating theories as predicting and controlling the phenomena of interest. On the other hand cross sectional survey measures the opinions of staff's digital T.V firms, with different cadres and sex.

# Population for the Study

Population of the study is the entire set of cases, from where sample units are drawn. In this study our population of the study comprises of the sales representative, dealer support units and customer care managers of Digital TV firms who have offices in Rivers state. Preliminary investigation on digital T.V firms showed that most Digital T.V firms have offices in Rivers state. This study focuses on sales managers, dealer support and customer care managers because of their direct involvement with dealers and customer issues.

	Digital T.V firm	Sales representative	Dealer support	Customer care representative	Population
1	Multichoice	2	6	3	11
2	CAN T.V	1	2	2	5
3	Startimes	3	5	2	10
4	CTL	1	2	2	5
5	Metro digital	1	3	1	5
	Total	8	18	10	36

Source: Field Survey.

The total number of sales representatives, dealer support and customer representative are 36. Therefore since a population of 36 (see table 3.1) is not too large for this kind of study, and in order to increase the power of prediction we targeted all.

A structured questionnaire will be used to get primary data from managers and sales representatives of Digital TV firms in Port Harcourt. To seek further clarifications amidst the subjective man's opinion, documentary instrument will be used to observe and record events first hand.

### Method of Data collection/Instrumentation

The method of data collection will be basically a structured questionnaire, which was designed based on the review of related literature, which also informed our research hypotheses and research questions. The instrument will be designed in three segments respectively. Section A: will focus on demographic data, Section B: will generate data on the scopes of supply chain collaboration, and Section C: is designed to illicit responses on Corporate Wellness. The 5 point Likert-scale question approach was adopted, with five rating scale from end points 'very great extent to very low extent.

### **Operational measures of Variables**

The constructs used in this study were operationalized based on previously validated instruments. Incentive alignment was measured using six (6) items adopted from Siminatupang and Sridharan, (2004). Decision synchronization was also measured using the nine (9) scales by Siminatupang and Sridharan, (2004) and Customer patronage was measured using six (6) items adopted from Ndubuisi (2006).

All items were measured using a five point likert scale which ranges from "very low extent to very great extent". The measurement item for each construct are presented in the table below(see appendix).

For incentive alignment out of the 5items entered in the communality analysis, 4items shared more than 0.5 of their consistency while only 1item shared less than 0.5. The implication is that item in B11 (share savings on reduced inventory cost) was not consistent and was dropped. For decision synchronization, among the 9items entered in the communality analysis, 7items shared more than 0.5 of their consistency while only 1item shared less than 0.5. The implication is that items in B23 (joint decision on optimal order quantity) and B24 (joint resolution on order exceptions) were not consistent and so they were dropped. For customer patronage, among the 7items entered in the communality analysis, 6 tems shared more than 0.5 of their consistency while only 1item shared less than 0.5. The implication is that item in C18 (insensitivity to price) was not consistent and hence dropped.

### IV. METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis was made up of descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS version 22). In the area of descriptive statistics, this study will employ the use of frequency and percentages, pie and bar chart in answering research questions and demographic data of the respondents.

For the inferential statistics, the Kendall's Tau-b correlation co-efficient will be used in testing the hypotheses formulated for the study, at 0.05 level of significance. This technique (Kendall- Tau-b) will be utilized because it is more effective in determining whether two non-parametric data samples with ties are correlated. Also, it is used in analyzing ordinal data, such as this. The moderating variable will be analyzed using partial correlation. The SPSS (version 22) will be used in computing the data.

### Validity/ Reliability of instrument

Validity deals with the accuracy of measurement power of instruments or the extent to which conclusions are true. The validity of this study measurement scales has already been confirmed by previous studies (see Ndubuisi, 2004; Simatupang and Sridharan, 2004; Marcos et al, 2011; Gauray, 2008;Mathuramaytha, 2011) but due to change and differences in application of variables, will be reconfirmed in two-fold. First the instruments were subjected to face validity involving the scrutiny of supervisor(s), colleagues, and other informed persons in order to ensure that the batteries of statement raised properly represented the phenomenon under review. Secondly a pilot survey to pre-test the scale measurement on selected sample units in order to permit corrections of inconsistencies and/or ambiguities before the actual survey.

Reliability on the other hand, measures empiricism of results. In other words, it measures the extent to which the same set of items to be measured generates same results when replicated in similar setting. Scientifically, Crobach Alpha was used to measure reliability of instruments described the factors/constructs.

The measurement was tested with respect to internal consistency and discriminant validity. Table 3.2 reports the item loadings and  $\alpha$  value for the measurement of the two dimensions of supply chain collaboration (SCC) – incentive alignment(IA) and decision synchronization(DS), as well as the dimensions of corporate wellness- Customer patronage(CP).

Our AVE result ranged from 0.529 to 0.685 (see appendix ii), which are above the recommended threshold of 0.5. Moreover for reliability all  $\alpha$  values are above 0.809 (see table 3.2) which are also above acceptable value of 0.7 (Nunnally, 1978). Thus, confirming the convergent. We verified the discriminant validity by checking the square roots of the AVE as shown in appendix ii, the square root of the AVE of each construct is larger than the inter construct correlations and thus discriminant validity is confirmed.

## V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1: Kendall Correction between Decision Synchronization and customer				
patronage of Digital TV firms in Rivers State				

Correlations							
		DecisionSy nchronizati on	Customer Patronage				
	DecisionSy nchronizati on	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.672**			
		Sig. (2-tailed)		.000			
Kendall'		Ν	36	36			
s tau_b	CustomerP atronage	Correlation Coefficient	.672**	1.000			
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000				
		Ν	36	36			
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).							

From the result of the above table, the correlation coefficient (r = 0.672) between decision synchronization and customer patronage of Digital TV firms is strong and positive. The coefficient of determination ( $r^2 = 0.45$ ) indicates that 45% change in customer patronage of Digital TV firms can be explained by decision synchronization. The significant value of 0.000 (p< 0.01) reveals a significant relationship. Based on that, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between decision synchronization and customer patronage of Digital TV firms in Rivers State.

Correlations							
IncentiveAl ignment Opera nalFle ilit							
	IncentiveAli gnment	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.616**			
		Sig. (2- tailed)		.000			
Kendall's		Ν	36	36			
tau_b	OperationalF lexibility	Correlation Coefficient	.616**	1.000			
		Sig. (2- tailed)	.000				
		Ν	36	36			
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).							

Table 2: Kendall Correction between incentive alignment and operational flexibility of Digital TV firms in Rivers State

From the result of the above table, the correlation coefficient (r = 0.616) between incentive alignment and operational flexibility of Digital TV firms is strong and positive. The coefficient of determination ( $r^2 = 0.38$ ) indicates that 38% change in operational flexibility of Digital TV firms can be explained by incentive alignment. The significant value of 0.000 (p< 0.01) reveals a significant relationship. Based on that, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between incentive alignment and operational flexibility of Digital TV firms in Rivers State.

### VI. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this study shows that there is a significant relationship between incentive alignment and Customer patronage of digital TV firms in Rivers State. Therefore sharing of risks and rewards amongst digital TV supply chain members enhances the level of customer retention, frequency of purchase, and willingness to delay purchase. This revalidates findings from previous studies (Salmela et al. 2011; Simatupang amd Sindhran, 2005)

The findings of this study also reveals that there is a significant relationship between decision synchronization and Customer Patronage of digital TV firms in Rivers state. Hence digital TV supply chain partners who jointly plan on product assortment, promotional event, demand forecast, resolution of forecast exceptions, pricing policy, availability level, etc, enhances the level of customer retention, frequency of purchase, willingness to delay purchase etc (Maloni & Benton, 2000; Xu and Beamon, 2006; Simatupang and Sridharan, 2002).

### Research Limitations and suggestions for further studies

There are a few limitations to the interpretation of the current results and implications of this study. The study population were all from Rivers State, though from different organizations and with different designations, we believe that a selection of sample from two or more states or countries might lead to a better representation. Secondly the scope of this study is limited decision synchronization, incentive alignment and customer patronage, we believe that if other variables like information sharing, etc were added, interpretation might be different. Thirdly in order to further examine the effect of collabartion within a supply chain and corprate wellness, it might be fruitful to replicate the study in other cultural setting i,e the Western or Northern part of Nigeria or other parts of Africa and Europe. Finally, it might be productive to further apply the research to other product categories such as banking, oil sector, etc.

Further research should be designed in this area, such that the limitations highlighted will be eliminated.

#### VII. CONCLUSION

This current study highlights the importance of collaboration within a supply chain and corprate wellness. Decision synchronization and incentive alignment were identified to have a positive impact on customer patronage though in varying degrees. Digital TV firms are advised to pay rapt attention to decision synchronization and incentive alignment strategies in order to optimize customer patronage.

#### VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. TV stations should always contact superior firms for ideas and suggestions in ways of moving their firms forward
- ii. Management of TV stations should ensure that employees are trained and retrained by experts in the field to enable them become more competent
- iii. Employees should be motivated to bring out their best
- iv. Employees should be incorporated during decision making, this could save the firm a lot of Naira

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