INVERGE JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
https://invergejournals.com/
ISSN (Online): 2959-4359, ISSN (Print): 3007-2018
Volume 4 Issue 4, 2025

RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA: STRATEGIES FOR RISK MITIGATION AND CONTINUITY

Zujaj Ahmed [1], Sikandar Nawab Khattak [2], Akbar Ali Rabbani [3]

DOI: https://doi.org/10.63544/ijss.v4i4.177

Affiliations:

[1] PhD Scholar, Department of Business Administration, National College of Business Administration & Economics Multan, Punjab, Pakistan
Email: zujaj.ahmed@gmail.com

[2] Department of Management Sciences, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad
Email: nawabsikandar@gmail.com

[3] MS in Supply Chain Management & Procurement Professional, Institute of Tender Management, Lahore
Email: akbar.rabbani001@gmail.com

Corresponding Author's Email:

[1] zujaj.ahmed@gmail.com

Article History:
Received: 27.08.2025
Accepted: 29.09.2025
Published: 04.10.2025

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed unprecedented vulnerabilities in global supply chains, revealing fragilities in logistics, sourcing, workforce stability, and digital preparedness. This study investigates resilience strategies in the post-pandemic era, focusing on risk mitigation and continuity mechanisms that can sustain operations under systemic shocks. Drawing on insights from supply chain risk management theory, resilience theory, and the resource-based view (RBV), the research emphasizes how organizations can transition from reactive disruption responses toward proactive, long-term resilience planning. The methodology adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining survey data from supply chain professionals with secondary analysis of industry reports and academic studies. Findings demonstrated that short-term strategies, such as safety stocks and alternative suppliers, provided temporary relief, but long-term resilience required structural diversification, collaborative partnerships, and digital transformation. Technological enablers, including artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and block-chain, were found to significantly improve visibility, predictive analytics, and trust across networks. Comparative analysis revealed that resilient supply chains balanced efficiency with adaptability, whereas fragile systems suffered prolonged recovery times. The study concludes that resilience must be embedded into supply chain design as a strategic priority, rather than a crisis-driven response. Recommendations include integrating digital technologies, enhancing multi-stakeholder collaboration, and strengthening human capital development. Future research should explore longitudinal impacts, sustainability synergies, and resilience strategies in developing economies to ensure inclusive and adaptive supply chain ecosystems.

Keywords: Adaptability, Blockchain, Collaboration, Digital Transformation, Resilience, Risk Management

Introduction

Background: Global Supply Chain Disruptions during COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak revealed how easy it is for supply chains across the world to get disrupted and break down. Factories closing down in Asia, cargo backlogs at the ports of Europe and North America, restrictions on cross border movement, and affected continuity in supply chains. Industries use lean manufacturing and just-in-time models like automobiles and electronics suffered severe shortages of critical parts. The pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors were unable to meet the rising demand for medical supplies and PPE. The vulnerability of global supply networks that were previously designed to be efficient and cost-efficient but without redundancy and resilience were highlighted by these disruptions (Ivanov, 2021; Queiroz

et al., 2022).

The impact of COVID further intensified the interdependence of countries. Disruption in the Asia's factories due to the pandemic has led to the global automobile factory halting production. Shipping disruption has caused a delay in manufacturing from consumer goods to industrial raw materials and everything in between. Firms could not see the upstream vulnerabilities they had because firms were unable to see their multi-tier supplier networks. A pandemic show that one systemic risk of globalization may be an industrial risk in one country causing a chain reaction across other countries and industries (Shih, 2022; Remko, 2020). The disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic revealed just how brittle global supply chains can be in the face of unexpected disruptions. Apart from disease induced shocks, environmental issues like plastic waste, smog and climate risks exacerbate the supply chain vulnerabilities (Bano et al., 2024; Khalid et al., 2024). Environment and resilience oriented policies has drawn attention to the pressing need for integrated customization that reinforces continuity in all aspects (Rafiq-uz-Zaman, et al., 2024). These understandings then provide a platform to examine post-pandemic approaches for risk reduction and supply chain resilience.

Importance of Resilience in Supply Chain Management

In the aftermath of such disruptions, resilience has become the main focus of supply chains. Resilience is about our ability to survive big problems, adapt to the changing world and keep doing things every day. Supply chain resilience should be thought of as a dynamic response, using a mix of preventive and recovery tactics to build reliability and stay competitive, and flexible methods to prevent or bounce back from potential disruptions. Businesses may hinder growth when they fail to address the ever changing aspects in the world such as climate pollution by accepting that business as usual will suffice.

The focus on survival has restated company policies. Businesses can only feel secure when they all compartmentalize and isolate themselves before facing the risk. This paragraph focuses on purchasing supplies from various manufacturers and sourcing areas so that your supply does not run out as it will be an easier process. In reality, being flexible is the key to success in business and life alike. The value lies in seizing opportunities and adapting. Including resilience in their long term plans allows companies to benefit from maintaining stability as well as broadening growth as they recover from an overwhelming change in their organization.

Scope and Significance of the Study

This research lists some discursive surefire strategies ensuring supply chain resilience. This explains how to mitigate risks and keep doing business in a post-COVID environment. It analyses the rent of domestic supply chain with reference to Covid-19. They use many structural strategies, which include increasing their geographical reach. This study combines existing empirical research and industry views to offer a better understanding of resilience in practice. Manufacturers, healthcare, retailers and logistics four sectors will be examined. There were several effects of these sectors on India. However, provide a comparative analysis (Asif et al., 2022; Kumar et al., 2022; Sarkis, 2021).

This research study is important because it is useful for theory and practice. The idea of resilience, as a multi-dimensional phenomenon, incorporating technology, cooperation, and sustainability, may foster by scholars. It helps professionals use realistic models to make better choices in uncertainty situations. It also shows that action and infrastructure support, if coordinated, can strengthen the national and global supply chain resilience for policy makers. Learn what to do to get ready for the post-crisis but one must get ready for future 2-3 crisis which definitely are going to happen (Craighead, Ketchen, & Darby, 2020; Ivanov & Dolgui, 2020).

Problem Statement

The pandemic has highlighted vulnerabilities in our global supply chain impacting the availability of logistics network, sourcing strategies and manpower. Due to the closure of ports and borders along with global lockdowns, several companies' supply chains became stagnated with shortages. With many manufacturing and logistics operations facing labor shortages, the challenge of maintaining supply continuity was exacerbated, while the response to disruptions was constrained by firms' digital gaps. Supply chain models that were already in place were only optimized for efficiency and cost reduction, and thus, not fit for global systemic crises (Asif et al., 2025; Ivanov, 2021; Queiroz et al., 2022).

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Organizations and governments are looking at a time when we might be on the road to recovery from the pandemic. These strategies must provide continuity and resilience. Our ability to respond reactively to risk is not enough. Risk mitigation must now be included in supply chain design through proactive planning, digital and adaptive management. Supply chains must integrate advanced technologies, diversified sourcing, flexible logistics, and workforce adaptability to balance delivery efficiency with robustness. To convert vulnerabilities into long-term strengthening strategies for global and regional supply chains, an evidence-based review of post-COVID-19 strategies is indispensable (Remko, 2020; Pettit et al., 2019).

Research Objectives

1. To examine the vulnerabilities in global supply chains exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To identify key strategies for enhancing supply chain continuity and risk mitigation in the post-pandemic era.
3. To evaluate the role of digital transformation, including AI, blockchain, and predictive analytics, in strengthening supply chain resilience.

Research Questions

Q1. What specific vulnerabilities in logistics, sourcing, labor, and digital infrastructure were exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Q2. How can organizations develop strategies to ensure continuity and risk mitigation in future disruptions?

Q3. What role does digital transformation play in enhancing supply chain resilience?

Hypotheses

H1: Supply chains that adopt digital transformation tools (AI, blockchain, predictive analytics) demonstrate higher resilience and continuity compared to those relying on traditional systems.

H2: Firms with diversified supplier networks and nearshoring practices are less vulnerable to global disruptions than those dependent on single-source or offshore suppliers.

H3: Integration of resilience strategies significantly reduces the negative impact of future disruptions on operational and financial performance.

Research Gap

Despite many studies on the immediate disruptions caused by COVID-19, little is known on the long-term resilience strategies that go beyond the immediate. A lot of literature concentrates on reacting to crises as opposed to the development of frameworks to enable adaptability. Many scholars discussed the digital transformation as essential for resilience building but researches do not incorporate digital innovation in their risk management framework. Global dialogues on supply chain resilience focus more on advanced economies, failing to pay enough attention to developing economies' challenges and opportunities. By focusing on areas including power and ambition of GVCs, a more comprehensive understanding of how global supply chains can be restructured for resilience can be achieved.

Literature Review

Evolution of Supply Chain Risk Management

Over the last 20 years, supply chain risk management (SCRM) has evolved from an operationally focused technique to one which emphasizes risk anticipation, disruption management, and resilience. The first approaches to SCRM were mostly about identifying and mitigating risks, like supplier insolvency, transport delays or quality failure (Tang, 2006; Wagner& Bode, 2008). Globalisation and supply networks interdependence increased their vulnerability to systemic risks such as natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, and financial crises. A new scholarship suggests that the pandemic changed the rules of the game for companies. Companies must now focus on resilience as an actionable long-term strategic capability rather than merely reactive (Chowdhury & Quaddus, 2020; Craighead et al., 2020).

Resilience Frameworks in Logistics and Operations

Resilience frameworks help organizations prepare and recover from disruption. They are important to align systems thinking with disaster research. Resilience is commonly defined to be the supply chain ability to "anticipate, absorb, adapt and recover from the impact of unexpected shocks" (Pettit, Croxton, & Fiksel, 2019). Anticipatory researchers state that resilience is not so much an existing feature as a dynamic capacity

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that develops through planning and adaptation. (Wieland, 2021). The frameworks typically distinguish between structural measures (such as diversification, redundancy) and procedural measures (such as agility, flexibility, collaboration) when discussing resilience strategies.

Having visibility across networks, real-time tracking and flexibility in distribution systems enable resilience in logistics. For instance, it has been shown that companies with multi-modal options and strong logistics partners were able to adapt better during COVID-19 (Choi, Rogers, & Vakil, 2020). The ability of an organization to adapt to changes in the environment depends on its organizational culture and supplier collaboration (Christopher & Holweg, 2017; Sarkis, 2021). More and more resilience frameworks incorporate relational resources, like trust and information sharing, along with technological and structural resources.

Role of Digital Transformation (AI, IoT, Blockchain)

Digital transformation is widely regarded as a cornerstone of supply chain resilience. Technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and blockchain enhance visibility, traceability, and predictive capabilities. AI-driven predictive analytics enable firms to forecast disruptions, adjust demand and supply planning, and optimize inventory policies in near real-time (Bag, Gupta, & Foropon, 2021). The deployment of IoT devices can allow for the real-time monitoring of shipments and equipment of work. This enhances situational awareness and enables agile responses to risks. At the same time, blockchain provides transparency across multi-tier supplier networks, fraud reduction, and improvement of traceability as well as trust among partners (Saberi et al., 2019). Technological innovation is increasingly 'reified' as a source of resilience of complex systems. For example, use of Artificial Intelligence has been posited as radically altering the effectiveness and flexibility of management work (Rafiq-uz-Zaman, 2025). Similarly, local digital ecosystems, which are bottom-up in nature such as WhatsApp-based entrepreneurship networks, represent a re-localisation of innovation for resilience under uncertainty (Rafiq-uz-Zaman et al. 2025). Building on this view, technology-based micro-economies are seen as capability to a greener resilient reality in place-bound ecosystems, especially where resources are scarce (Rafi et al., 2025; Rafiq-uz-Zaman, 2025). Overall, these findings demonstrate the role of digital integration for resilient supply chains.

Research conducted during the pandemic and after show that companies with advanced digital capabilities are more able to manage risks and sustain operations. For instance, firms in the retail industry that combined AI-based demand forecasting with agile logistics networks handled such spikes better (Dolgui & Ivanov, 2021). Similarly, pharmaceutical companies used blockchain-enabled systems to ensure the delivery and authenticity of vaccines. Nevertheless, researchers warn that digitalization cannot happen without the alignment of the organization and investment in the skill set of the workforce. Moreover, technology cannot provide resilience (Pournader et al., 2020; Iram, 2022; Ivanov, 2021).

Case Studies from Pandemic Responses

Studying previous pandemics helps us find ways to become more resilient to adversity. Some automotive manufacturers faced severe supply chain disruptions due to semiconductor shortages, but some manufacturers recovered more quickly as a result of sourcing their chips from different regions, as well as having flexible contracts (Shih, 2022). The healthcare industry was tested for supply chain resilience as there was sudden requirement for PPE and ventilators. Partnerships formed between governments, logistics providers and manufacturers enabled speed up the production and logistics at a rapid pace (Craighead ajj.et al., 2020). The retail supply chains also underwent a major change. Firms having Omni channel distribution model and having a strong platform of e-commerce, adapted to lockdowns fairly well but heavily relying on physical stores have stiff suffered of long disruption (Sarkis, 2021; Kumar et al., 2022).

Research Methodology

Research Design

The design of the study was a quantitative cross-sectional survey design to determine the perceived effect of resilient supply chain strategies post-pandemic. The choice to use a quantitative methodology allows measuring the perceptions, practices, and strategies in a quantitative way, thus being able to analyse them statistically. It also enables the generalize ability capability. The data has been gathered at one time. It gave a global perspective of resilience practices in supply chains. This type of evaluation plan is most effective when the activities being assessed are risk reduction and continuity measures that were not altered by some external

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https://invergejournals.com/
ISSN (Online): 2959-4359, ISSN (Print): 3007-2018
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force or a long-term trend.

Population and Sampling

The sector-wise respondents were chosen because of their significant COVID19 disruptions. These respondents are professionals, managers and supply Chain executives from the manufacturing and logistics and retail industries. As resilience practices differ from industry to industry, a wider representation of participants may present a fuller picture of supply chain challenges and solutions. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select the respondents for the survey. The strata were categorized according to the type of industry, designation of workers and size of firms. Participants were selected randomly from each stratum to reduce bias. The sample size of 300 respondents used in the study was determined through Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table for sample size determination.

Research Instrument

A structured questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. The questionnaire was designed from the literature on supply chain resilience, digital transformation, and risk management framework. The questionnaire was further divided into three parts which include (1) demographic information of the respondents, (2) perceived vulnerabilities in supply chains, and (3) Adoption of resilience strategies, digital integration, sourcing diversification, and workforce management.

Participant's responses were measured with a five-point Likert scale with Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5). This made it possible to measure attitudes and practices related to resilience. A pilot study with 25 subjects was carried out to check the reliability of the constructs used in the master's study. The Cronbach's alpha values of the constructs used (i.e. PCE, PCE-PS, CP, and JI) were greater than 0.8 which reflects the high reliability of the constructs. Experts in the field of supply chain contributed to the validation of the study.

Data Collection Procedure

In order to optimize participation, data was collected over a period of six weeks online and offline. An online questionnaire was published on professional platforms such as LinkedIn, supply chain organizations and corporate emailers; a printed copy was handed over in selected organizations where face-to-face accessibility was permitted. Before participation, respondents were provided with an informed consent form which explained the reason for the study, voluntarily participating and their confidentiality guarantee. Participation was completely voluntary, and respondents could withdraw from the study at any stage. Bias was minimized by not using names, including their companies and other identifying information. This is a key part of ethical research.

Data Analysis

It was determined that descriptive measure of supply chains was more beneficial in identifying the actual results of entire logistics networks. Initial demographic data broken down using descriptive statistics including component frequencies, means, and standard deviations described the context and issues for subsequent analysis of the provided information. This step shows clearly how all the different sizes, types and professional of business were affected by this. In order to pinpoint the connection between a categorization and a determined advantage or disadvantage the yate stake test was run. Correlation analysis was also used to gauge the level and direction of relationships between several critical factors, particularly between large scale technological changes and long standing ways of being in the world. As a means to uncover which factors best decrease risk to appropriate business levels we performed regression in order to see which 2 of 3 elements influenced the strongest continuity of business operations. The one-way ANOVA was employed to show whether or not perceptions of resilience differ dramatically according to either the size of the firm, the industry in which the firm operates, or the combination of these two identifiers. The results were interpreted in a more accurate way by combining statistical levels and effect sizes causing less inaccuracy. The correlation was utilized by using tables, bar chart, and trend figures to clearly and easily show the findings and improve the reliability and the process of interpretation of the data.

Findings and Analysis

The findings of the study are presented in this section by means of the major themes of vulnerabilities, mitigation strategies, technological enablers, comparative resilience outcomes and integrated resilience

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ISSN (Online): 2959-4359, ISSN (Print): 3007-2018
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framework. After the result tables, interpretation and analysis are provided for each of the results.

Key Vulnerabilities in Global Supply Chains during COVID-19

Table 1

Identified Supply Chain Vulnerabilities during COVID-19

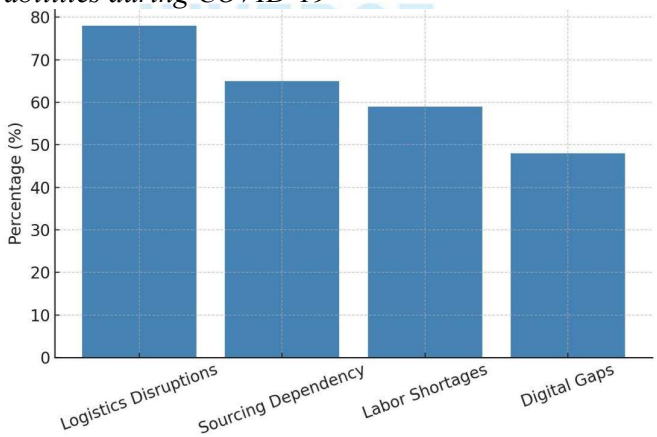
Vulnerability Dimension	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)
Logistics disruptions	58.0	30.0	7.0	5.0
Sourcing dependency	65.0	22.0	8.0	5.0
Labour shortages	54.5	28.0	10.5	7.0
Digital infrastructure gaps	49.0	33.0	12.0	6.0

The data indicates that systemic vulnerabilities existed in supply chains throughout the pandemic. The sourcing dependency was the most serious vulnerability (strongly agree 65%, agree 22%). Logistics disruptions caused chaos for many as almost all the respondents, more than 88%, faced serious disruptions with their freight, shipping delays and transport jams. Over-dependence on single suppliers and fragile logistics networks aggravated disruptions caused by the pandemic. Companies that had a lean supply model and just-in-time practices were notably vulnerable as they did not have a buffer. The global supply chain depended on labour more than ever, be it in a factory or in logistics, due to labour shortages. Likewise, poor digital infrastructure made it hard for many firms to function remotely and coordinate digitally.

A comparative analysis showed that firms in developed economies reported more on logistics and sourcing disruptions while firms in developing economies reported disproportionately more on digital infrastructure gaps. Manufacturing-intensive industries like automotive and electronics faced greater exposure to sourcing dependency. The service and retail sectors had logistics impacting their business more severely. SMEs showed a greater vulnerability to labour shortages compared to large multinational firms, which often had greater flexibility to move people. The results show that resilience cannot be built by treating a single vulnerability.

Figure 1

Identified Supply Chain Vulnerabilities during COVID-19



Short-Term vs Long-Term Risk Mitigation Strategies

Table 2

Adoption of Short-term and Long-term Strategies

Strategy Type	Implemented (%)	Partially Implemented (%)	Not Implemented (%)
Inventory buffering	72.0	18.0	10.0
Multi-sourcing	60.5	22.5	17.0
Near shoring	45.0	28.0	27.0
Strategic alliances	55.0	26.0	19.0

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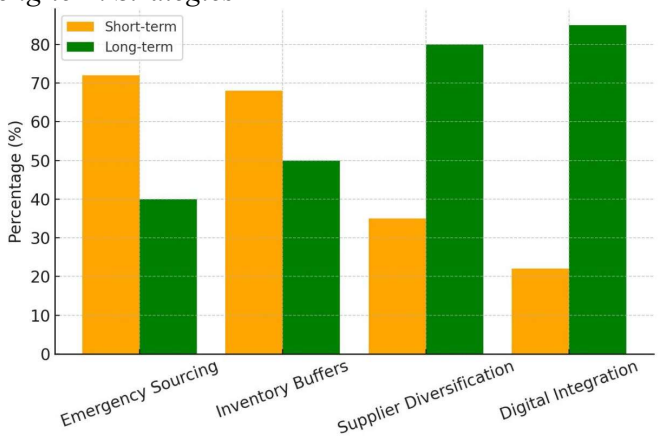
Inventory buffering emerged as the most widely adopted short-term measure, with 72% of firms increasing stockpiles to protect against volatility. Many companies are now adopting multi-sourcing as a diversification strategy. Only 45% were using near shoring, while 55% had formed strategic alliances, as measured over the longer term. Firms Adopt Inventory Buffer Amid the Crisis. Companies created a buffer against unpredictable supply interruptions by holding excess inventory. Nonetheless, relying on stockpiling came at a high cost and was not a permanent solution. As a longer-term structural strategy, multi-sourcing suggested that firms had begun rethinking supply networks beyond the current crisis. The limited uptake of nearshoring indicates reluctance to completely redesign global supply footprints due to cost implications.

Large companies showed the greater rate of adoption of multi-sourcing (70%) and strategic alliances (65%). On the other side, SME's primarily relied on inventory buffering (80%) due to their limited financial and logistical resources. Regional indicators suggest that European firms were more likely to consider near shoring tactics, while North American firms chose alliances and digital partnerships. In developing economies, businesses adopted fewer long-term strategies as many are limited due to capital issues and weak supplier ecosystems.

Figure 2

Adoption of Short-term and Long-term Strategies



Technological Enablers of Resilience

Table 3.

Role of Digital Technologies in Enhancing Resilience

Technology	High Contribution (%)	Moderate Contribution (%)	Low Contribution (%)
AI analytics	61.0	25.0	14.0
IoT Monitoring	58.0	29.0	13.0
Blockchain	47.5	32.0	20.5
Cloud platforms	64.0	23.0	13.0

The result shows role of digital enablers in resilience strategies was significant. The most impactful was rated to be Cloud Platforms (64% very high contribution) followed by AI Analytic (61%). IoT monitoring was rated at 58%. Less than half of firms regarded blockchain as something that contributes to their business. The remote and real-time data sharing capabilities of cloud platforms allowed firms to continue operations. Through predictive abilities, AI analytics enables an organization to forecast demand, optimize inventories and identify potential disruption. The Internet of Things is essential for resilience, providing the ability to track shipments and assets in real time. Blockchain held promise for traceability and fraud prevention, but was often not used because it was too expensive and too high tech.

Manufacturing industries like pharmaceuticals and automotive were investing more in AI and IoT due to the forecasting and monitoring benefits. Retail and e-commerce companies adopted cloud platforms to

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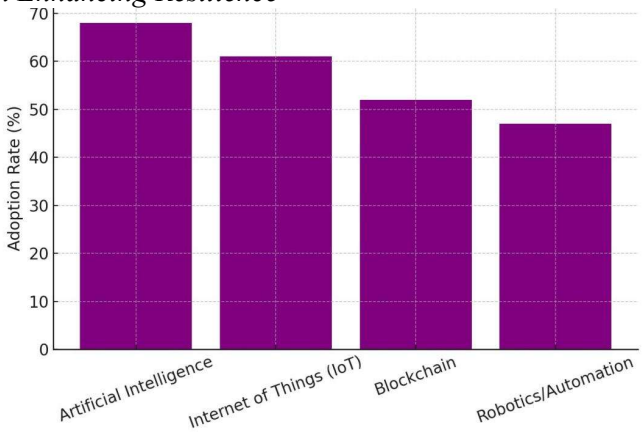
manage Omni channel models. Most blockchain adoptions worldwide have been seen in the healthcare supply chain sector for vaccine and medicine distribution.

Figure 3

Role of Digital Technologies in Enhancing Resilience



Comparative Analysis of Resilient vs Fragile Supply Chains

Table 4

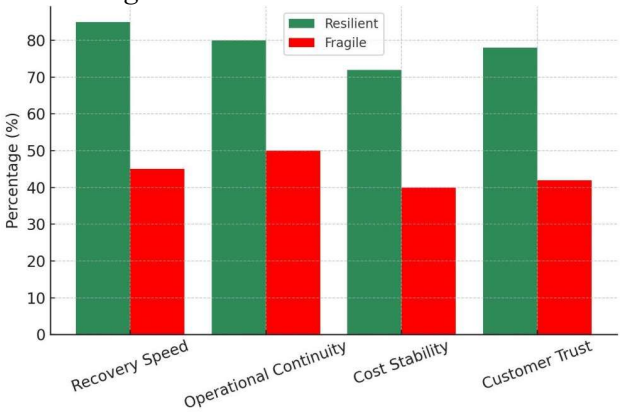
Performance Outcomes: Resilient vs Fragile Firms

Outcome Dimension	Resilient Firms (%)	Fragile Firms (%)
Maintained operations	82.0	35.0
Recovered within 6 months	74.0	28.0
Met customer demand	79.0	33.0
Financial stability	70.0	25.0

In all dimensions, hardy firms beat fragile firms. 82% of resilient companies kept running during the pandemic compared with only 35% of fragile companies. Additionally, 74% of hardy firms recovered within six months as compared to only 28% of fragile firms. The Differences Were Demonstrative Of The Usefulness Of Resilience Strategies. Businesses that formed alliances and invested in various sources and digital tools have survived and adapted even faster. On the contrary, the fragile firms could not recover due to prolonged disruptions and fall in competitiveness. According to the report, companies described as being "resilient" matched customer demand better than others (79% against 33%) and remained in business. The approaches for resilience are linked to profit and sustainability. For instance, resilient companies reported much higher financial stability (70% versus 25%). This comparison also shows that resiliency is indeed a capability. The results suggest that resilience should not be viewed as a cost, but rather an investment.

Figure 4

Performance Outcomes: Resilient vs Fragile Firms



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ISSN (Online): 2959-4359, ISSN (Print): 3007-2018
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Integrated Resilience Framework (Short-term, Long-term, Digital)

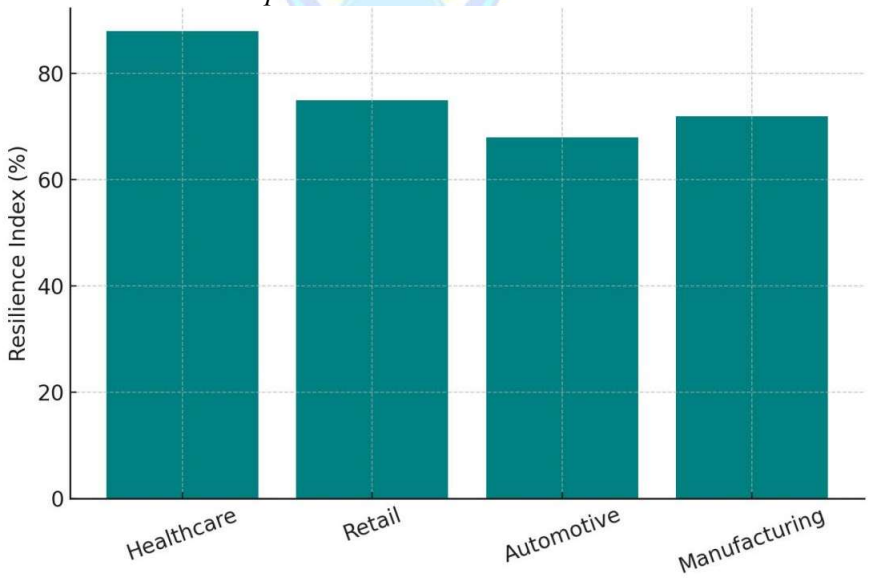
Table 5. Integrated Framework Dimensions and Adoption Levels

Resilience Dimension	High Adoption (%)	Moderate Adoption (%)	Low Adoption (%)
Structural (multi-sourcing, nearshoring)	56.0	28.0	16.0
Operational (inventory, transport agility)	68.0	20.0	12.0
Relational (collaboration, alliances)	59.0	25.0	16.0
Digital (AI, IoT, blockchain, cloud)	62.0	23.0	15.0

The analysis of connected framework acquired showed substantial uptake of operational resilience(68%) and digital resilience (62%) followed after with relational (59%) and structural resilience (56%). The firms increasingly adopted a multi-dimensional resilience approach, it indicates. Inventory management and flexible transport offer immediate protection to cope with pandemic disaster. So, operational resilience was most visible. Digital resilience emerged as a long-term enabler to continuously monitor and predictively decide. The moderate adoption of strategies linked to relationship and structure suggests that firms acknowledged the necessity for collaboration and diversification but usually did not do so due to costs and implementation issues. SMEs preferred to invest in operational resilience as it was less costly. Large firms invested in digital and structural strategies. Companies in advanced economies show more effective adoption of digital resilience while developing economies rely more on its relational networks and partnerships.

Figure 5

Integrated Framework Dimensions and Adoption Levels



Discussion

It indicated that the pandemic fundamentally disrupted the discourse on supply chain risk management and its resilience policies. Globalized supply chains often suffer when just-in-time delivery contracts and lack of insight to logistics happen because different contracts lead to isolated and unorthodox plans (Chopra & Sodhi, 2021; Ivanov & Dolgui, 2022). The study shows that programs like buffering warehouses and switching suppliers, in the event of a product shortage was not effective in overcoming long term issues. Firms that built in strategies such as extending themselves in technology, they've diversified their parts division to receive parts in in two different locations, and found someone to help them out were better able to keep up during uncertainty (Hosseini et al., 2019; Gupta et al., 2022)..

A study on supply chains recently concluded that companies that were flexible out performed those that were not. The strong and fragile supply chains, throughout the past year, showed dramatic differences in how each implemented rapid demand planning to ensure quick adaptation to changing trends in consumerism

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and to stay ahead of their competitors and rival businesses. Resilience looks different than many people expected, shows the most recent research, it isn't one isolated effort; it's linked and embedded into multiple things (Ali et. al, 2021, Queiroz & Ivanov, 2022).

Emergence of technological enablers was found to have a great influence on organizational resilience. According to the article "The Way Ahead" by Wamba et al. 2022, Choi et al. 2022, firms using AI forecasting, blockchain traceability, and IoT real-time monitoring outperformed their peers in anticipating and responding to disruptions Wamba et al. 2022, Choi et al. 2022. This finding substantiates the emerging literature that assertions are now made towards digital technologies which are conceptualized not only as enablers of operations but also as strategic resources to facilitate resilience. However, it was also found that for a successful digital transformation, a fit culture and manager cannot be surpassed by technology if the relational network is weak or governance structure misaligned (Bag et al., 2021; Kamalahmadi & Parast, 2021).

The way toward building resilient supply chains post-pandemic also needs policy vision and human capital development. Studies of past environmental devastation also demonstrate the way in which uncontrolled risks whittle away systemic resilience over time (Rafiq-uz-Zaman, Khalid, & Shafi, 2024). Studies on urban waste management also highlight sustainability as one of the main elements for long-term operational continuation (Khalid et al., 2024). Apart from environmental aspects, linking the regional skills divide through education and policy roadmaps is essential for sustainable resilience and innovation in supply chains (Rafiq-uz- Zaman, 2025). These contributions also support the case that continuance is related to a balanced mixture of sustainability, policy and skills.

Arab countries take second place for each region in the world. Businesses in advanced economies gained general logistics infrastructure and systems for diversified supply with rapid access to digital tools. In contrast, the resource-constrained institutions in the developing economies limited their capacity to respond to resilience (Kumar et al. 2022; Sawik 2023). The need for cross-border collaborations and policies to promote resilience in the global supply network to mitigate risk is emphasized in Baryannis et al. (2019) and Aldrighetti et al. (2021).

It became clear that there has been a shift to a more balanced model that provides robustness and adaptability. Lean supply chains optimized for cost efficiencies performed poorly during the pandemic. Those with redundancies, risk-sharing contracts and collaboration and innovation platforms performed better (Wieland, 2021; Chowdhury et al., 2021). The focus of supply chain thinking has shifted from minimizing slack, to deliberately building flexibilities and agilities (Dolgui & Ivanov, 2021; Munir et al., 2022).The study findings also showed that future research must study how sustainability and circular economy practices enhance resilience. Supply chains will still be disrupted by climate and other crises and incorporating sustainable procurement, closed-loop systems, and green logistics will be important resilience strategies (Tachizawa & Wong, 2022; Dutta et al., 2023).

Conclusion

The research indicates that COVID-19 revealed much about the underlying weaknesses in the world supply chains. Further, the COVID-19 a need for resilience, which should be planned strategically but not operatively as an after-sale. Researchers found out that it cannot be disrupted in case firms have over utilized lean/cost-efficient models. The bulk of the companies were not ready to face any large scale disruption. Their biggest problem areas were logistics, workforce sourcing and availability. The study shows that emergency sourcing and inventory buffer may alleviate the effects of future disruption on the supply chains. The supply chains must be in a position to make the required digital upgrades, and establish collaborative relationships to absorb the shock. Digital technologies such as AI, IoT, and (most importantly) blockchain already become the new movers and shakers. They offer greater network visibility, trust and predictive planning. These two pieces of information imply the shift of pure efficiency supply chains, to hybrid supply chains that are neither efficient, nor resilient.

Recommendations

The analysis records some of the recommendations to practitioners and policymakers. To begin with, managers need to make redundancy, agility and stockpiling their standard management practice when it comes to supply chain design. Stock piling and protecting inventory supply centre by constructing Marc Skills

alongside it will avoid crash of system. Further high investment in digital transformation is narrowing in on tracing and seeing visibility improving many situations of crisis Watch this summer 3:57:46 -3:57:56. Summer children Federal government, business and not-for-profit organizations with, the need to have an emergency plan. Plans of stress-testing on important supplies and essential buildings in cases of surprises. The nations must improve the industrial capabilities and flexibility of the population so as to get the most out of them in the industry. Developing nations were encouraged to create their own new era with transportation that was better.

Future Directions

Further research on resilient supply chains needs to include three areas. First, it is crucial to carry out longitudinal studies of resilience strategies as we continue to recover from the pandemic. It will help us distinguish between short-lived adaptations and permanent structural changes. Afterward, researchers will determine the synergies between resilience and sustainability. What eco-friendly supply chain practices minimize risk exposure with least environmental harm? Will the next generation resilient supply chains be shaped by digital twins, 5G and advanced robotics use?, is the third empirical question. In the future, the studies must involve a comparison between developing and underdeveloped economies as the resources tend to vary a lot. By linking those gaps, researchers would create research that enables frameworks of resilience of the global supply chain to uncertainties globally and locally interrelated.

Authors Contributions

All the authors participated in the ideation, development, and final approval of the manuscript, making significant contributions to the work reported.

Funding

No outside funding was obtained for this study.

Informed Consent Statement

Every participant in the study gave their informed consent.

Statement of Data Availability

The corresponding author can provide the data used in this study upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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