

BUSINESS ACUITIES

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SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES



In June 2021, supply chain management faced several challenges and trends. Here are some key aspects related to supply chain management:

COVID-19 Impact:



The COVID-19 pandemic continued to significantly impact global supply chains in June 2021. Many countries were still dealing with lockdowns,

travel restrictions, and disruptions in production and transportation. Supply chains were strained, leading to delays, shortages, and increased costs.

Reshoring and Regionalization: The pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities of global supply chains, leading to a trend of reshoring and regionalization. Many companies sought to bring manufacturing and sourcing closer to home to reduce dependence on distant suppliers and mitigate risks. This trend aimed to improve supply chain resilience and reduce lead times.

Demand Volatility: The pandemic created unprecedented fluctuations in consumer demand. In June 2021, supply chain professionals grappled with the challenge of predicting and managing volatile demand patterns. This necessitated agile and responsive supply chains capable of adjusting production, inventory, and distribution strategies quickly.

Supply Chain Digitization: To enhance visibility, efficiency, and collaboration, supply chains were increasingly adopting digital technologies. This included the use

of data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to optimize inventory management, demand forecasting, and logistics planning. Digital platforms and tools also facilitated remote work and virtual communication.

Sustainability and ESG Factors:

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations gained prominence in supply chain management. Companies focused on reducing carbon emissions, promoting ethical sourcing, and enhancing social responsibility. Sustainability initiatives, such as using eco-friendly packaging and optimizing transportation routes, gained attention in June 2021.

Supply Chain Resilience:

The disruptions caused by the pandemic prompted organizations to prioritize supply chain resilience. Businesses sought to identify vulnerabilities, diversify suppliers, implement risk mitigation strategies, and develop contingency plans to withstand future disruptions. Collaboration and transparency among supply chain partners were crucial to building resilient supply networks.

E-commerce Growth:



E-commerce experienced exponential growth during the pandemic, and this trend continued in June 2021. Supply chains adapted to accommodate the increased online demand, focusing on efficient order fulfillment, last-mile delivery optimization, and seamless customer experiences.

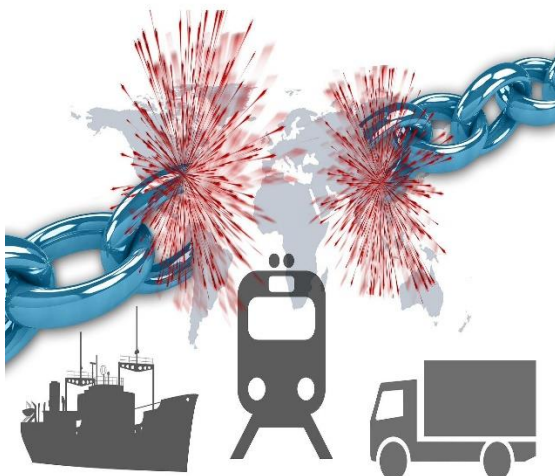
These were some of the significant aspects related to supply chain management in June 2021. It's important to note that the supply chain landscape is constantly evolving, and new challenges and trends may have emerged since then.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE



In June 2021, international trade was still significantly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many countries were implementing various restrictions and measures to contain the spread of the virus, which had a profound effect on global trade flows. Here are some key points regarding international trade during that time:

Supply chain disruptions:

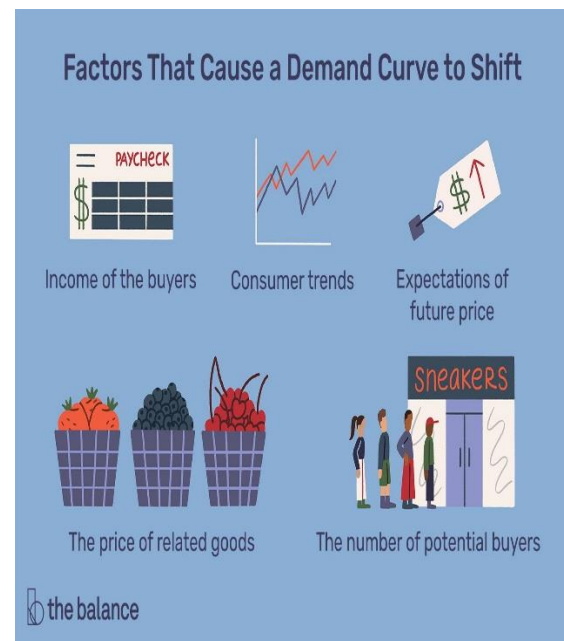


The pandemic had disrupted global supply chains, leading to shortages of raw materials, components, and finished goods in many industries. Lockdown measures, reduced manufacturing capacity, and transportation bottlenecks all contributed to these disruptions.

Decline in trade volumes:

International trade volumes experienced a decline compared to previous years due to reduced demand and logistical challenges. Many businesses were operating at limited capacity or were temporarily closed, resulting in lower imports and exports.

Shifts in consumer demand:

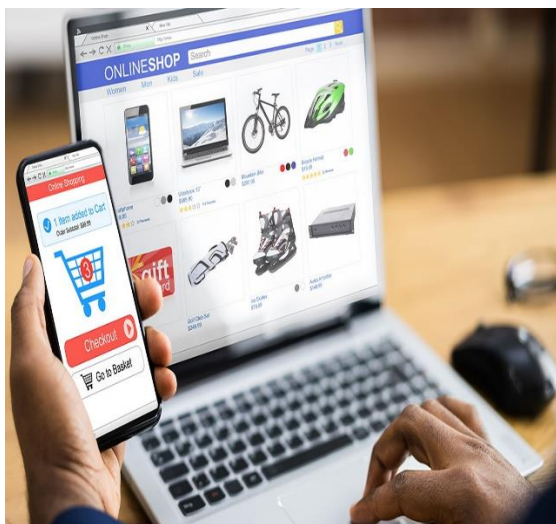


Changes in consumer behaviour and spending patterns were observed

during the pandemic, with a higher demand for essential goods such as medical supplies and food, while sectors like tourism, hospitality, and non-essential retail suffered significant setbacks.

Regional variations: The impact of the pandemic on international trade varied across regions. Some countries experienced a quicker recovery and rebounded faster than others, depending on their ability to control the virus and implement effective economic stimulus measures.

Digital trade and e-commerce:



The pandemic accelerated the growth of e-commerce and digital trade. With physical stores closed or operating under restrictions, online retail and digital services experienced a surge in demand.

Cross-border e-commerce played a crucial role in meeting consumer needs during this time.

Government interventions:



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Governments around the world implemented various measures to support trade and mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic. These measures included fiscal stimulus packages, financial assistance to businesses, and trade facilitation initiatives to ensure the flow of essential goods.

It's important to note that the global trade landscape is dynamic, and specific trade data for June 2021 may vary across countries and industries. The information provided here offers a general overview of the conditions prevailing during that time.

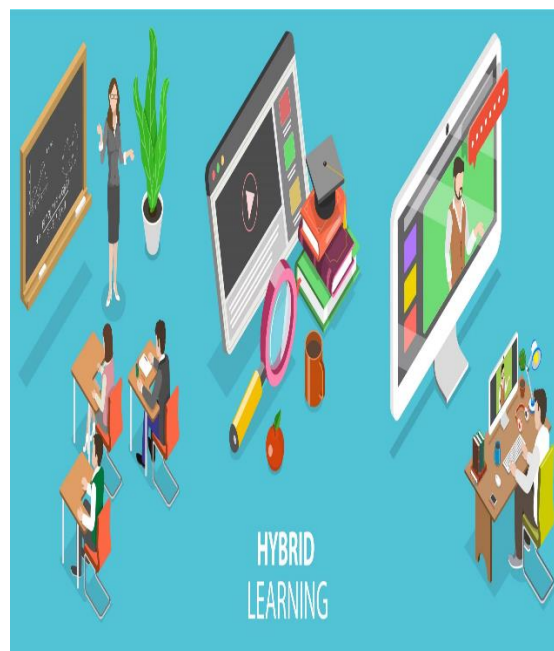
EDUCATION CHALLENGES



In June 2021, the education landscape was significantly affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many educational institutions around the world were still grappling with the challenges posed by remote learning and the need to ensure the safety of students and staff. Here are some key points regarding education in June 2021:

Remote Learning: In many countries, schools and universities continued to rely on remote learning methods such as online classes, video conferencing, and digital platforms to deliver educational content. This shift to remote learning posed challenges in terms of access to technology, internet connectivity, and maintaining student engagement.

Hybrid Learning:



Some educational institutions implemented hybrid learning models, combining online and in-person instruction. This approach involved a mix of in-person classes and remote learning, allowing for smaller class sizes and social distancing measures.

Vaccination Efforts: Vaccination campaigns were underway in several countries, prioritizing educators and school staff for vaccination to enhance the safety of in-person learning environments.

Exam Adaptations: Many standardized exams, such as college entrance exams and school board

exams, were modified or postponed to accommodate the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Online or remote exam formats were adopted in some cases.

Mental Health Support:



Educational institutions recognized the importance of prioritizing students' mental health and well-being due to the significant impact of the pandemic. Efforts were made to provide counselling services and resources to support students and staff.

Digital Divide: The digital divide, which refers to the disparity in access to technology and the internet, became more apparent during the pandemic. Efforts were made to

bridge this gap and ensure that all students had access to the necessary technology for remote learning.

Graduation and Commencement:

Many educational institutions held virtual graduation ceremonies or postponed them to a later date. These alternative arrangements aimed to celebrate the achievements of students while adhering to health and safety guidelines.

Education Policy Changes:

Education policymakers and authorities implemented various policies and guidelines to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. These included guidelines for remote learning, safety protocols for in-person instruction, and measures to support vulnerable student populations.

It's important to note that the education landscape and response to the pandemic varied across countries and even within regions. The situation was dynamic, with many institutions adapting their approaches based on the evolving circumstances and local health guidelines.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY



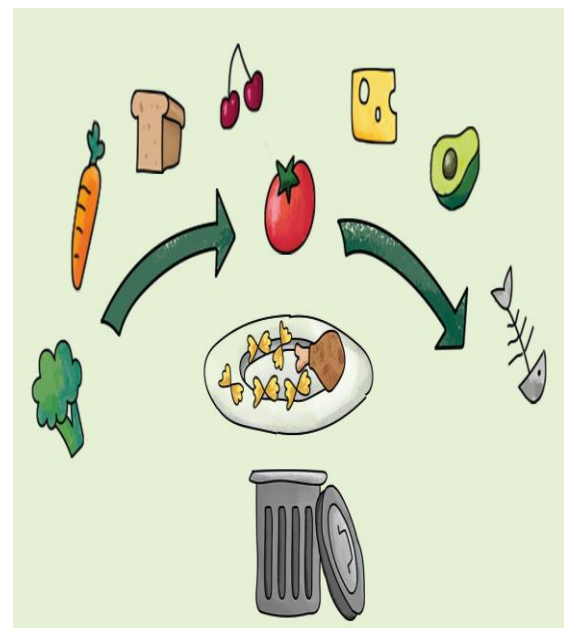
In June 2021, there were several notable trends and advancements in the field of food technology. Here are a few key developments that occurred during that time:

Plant-based and alternative proteins: The popularity of plant-based diets and the demand for alternative protein sources continued to rise. Many companies focused on developing plant-based meat substitutes, such as burgers, sausages, and chicken alternatives. Additionally, the market for alternative protein sources, including products made from pea protein, soy protein, and

mycoprotein (from fungi), expanded significantly.

Cellular agriculture: Cellular agriculture, which involves growing meat and other animal products in a lab using cell cultures, gained attention in June 2021. Researchers and companies were working on developing cultured meat products, aiming to provide a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional animal agriculture.

Food waste reduction:



The issue of food waste remained a concern, leading to various initiatives aimed at reducing waste throughout the food supply chain. Technologies like smart packaging and intelligent tracking systems were being

employed to monitor and manage food freshness, ensuring that less food was wasted.

Vertical farming and urban agriculture: The concept of vertical farming, where crops are grown in vertically stacked layers or structures using controlled environments, gained traction. This approach allowed for more efficient land use, reduced water consumption, and year-round crop production. Urban agriculture, including rooftop gardens and indoor farming, also continued to grow as a means to increase local food production and reduce transportation costs.

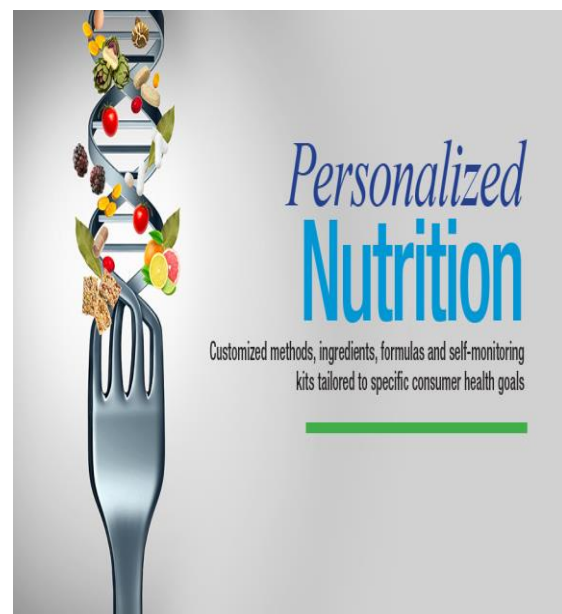
Food safety and traceability:



The importance of food safety and traceability was emphasized in June 2021. Technologies such as

blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) devices were increasingly used to track and verify the origin, quality, and safety of food products, enhancing transparency and consumer trust.

Personalized nutrition:



The field of personalized nutrition advanced, with companies offering tailored food products and services based on individuals' unique dietary needs, genetic information, and health goals. This approach aimed to optimize health outcomes and improve overall well-being.

It's worth noting that the field of food technology is rapidly evolving, and there may have been further advancements beyond what was mentioned here