ABSTRACT

World-Class Warehousing and Material Handling describes the processes and systems required for meeting the changing demands of warehousing. Filled with practices from proven to innovative, it will help all logistics professionals improve the productivity, quality, and cycle time of their existing warehouse operations. Warehousing in India has been evolving rapidly from being traditional “godowns” a mere four-wall-and-shed with sub optimal size and operations into modern setups with storage and handling points where raw material, intermediate and manufactured goods are collected, assorted, stored and distributed to the point of consumption/sale. As key end users are increasingly outsourcing their warehousing services, warehousing players are recognizing the need to be a part of the customer’s logistics chain, as against being a landlord leasing out space. This study aims to analyse the professional infrastructure influence on effective and efficient operations in a world class warehousing with special reference to Indian warehousing.

The study aims to find out the benefits of the world class warehousing facility with respect to the warehouse designers, operators & the customers in Indian scenario. The current study is both explorative and descriptive in nature. The initial phase was to undertake detailed secondary search literature survey on research issues. A descriptive research was carried out at the second stage by applying a survey method. The current research work is based on the multi-stage random sampling technique. In the first stage of the research adopted cluster based random sampling technique for identification of warehouses spread across India and its regional office spread. In the second stage of the study researcher adopted convenience sampling technique for collection of primary data from the samples i.e., warehouse designers, operators and end-users.

In India there are twelve warehouse centers i.e., six Tier I cities and sixty nine Tier II cities. Out of the twelve warehouse hubs functioning in India, seven regional areas were selected as sample (58 per cent) of the actual geographical regional warehouses. From the selected seven geographical regions six warehouse designers, 20 logistic service
providers and 9-8 end –users i.e., manufacturers, retailers and other industry related customers were chosen as sample in each area. The sample of the study consists of 40 warehouse designers, 120 warehouse operators and 60 end-users.

From the elaborate study it has been inferred that the warehouse design managers’ are not efficient in designing the warehouse location as per the industrial sector of the end-users. The study results also reveals that there exists no association between warehouse design managers’ efficiency in designing the location, designing the building, warehouse designing the layout, process & material flow, designing the material handling equipment, Usage of IT integration software and their work experience. Thus, it has been concluded based on both empirical study results and literature analysis is has been inferred that lack of sufficient physical infrastructure is one of key challenges faced by the warehouses in India. Time lag between devising and implementing strategies due to the lack of international warehousing standards practices is another major problem faced by the India warehouses.

The study suggest to the warehousing players to overcome the challenges they face and maintain, and how improve and sustain competitiveness they have adopt various measures such as: skill development, policy initiatives and government measures, and IT adoption and increased investments in all spheres.