Application of 5S in Vietnamese small and medium manufacturing enterprises - Current situation and solutions

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Abstract:

5S (Sort, Straighten, Shine, Systemise, Sustain) is an effective management application that can help firms, specifically Manufacturing Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), eliminate wastes, improve product quality and strengthen competitive advantages. However, number of Vietnamese SMEs that can approach and apply this management method, are small (less than 1%). Beside this, enterprises that implemented 5S still stay at the beginning stage, starting with basic tools to practice such at the first 3S. In Vietnam, a number of researches about the application of 5S have been conducted but still have not clarified those issues.

Recognized the problems, by investigating over 25 Vietnamese manufacturing SEMs applying 5S, this research figured out the current situation of why 5S is not well implemented in Vietnam, what is the main reason and suggested the most suitable and practical solutions for enhancing 5S application in Vietnamese SMEs. Research result also showed that the most important inside and outside factors of Vietnamese SMEs that limit the implementation of 5S in Vietnam are training program, strategies, policy of government, employee expertise, material of 5S, and leadership. This paper could be utilized as primary for extending 5S application to other fields such as commerce services and other public service sectors.