



A HYBRID MCDM MODEL ENCOMPASSING AHP AND COPRAS-G METHODS FOR SELECTING COMPANY SUPPLIER IN IRAN

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Abstract. This paper is aimed at utilizing a hybrid multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) model for selecting a supplier. First, eight evaluation criteria, including cost, quality, distance, delivery reliability, reputation, technology level, compatibility and development ability are identified. The Analytic Hierarchical Process (AHP) is initially used for calculating the weight of each criterion. The COmplex PROportional ASsessment of alternatives to Grey relations (COPRAS-G method) is adopted for ranking and selecting suppliers. In order to illustrate the functional ability of the developed model, Kalleh Company is chosen as a case study and can be used as a pattern for supplier selection and future researches.

Keywords: MCDM, AHP, COPRAS-G, hybrid model, selection, construction, supply chain.

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1. Introduction

Due to global intensive competition, many companies prioritize quick and precise responses to customers' various demands improving their supply chain management (SCM). Many manufacturers seek to collaborate with their suppliers in order to upgrade their management performance and competitiveness. Thus, decisions on supplier selection are an important component of production and logistics management for plenty of firms in the process of SCM (Xia, Wu 2007). In addition, selecting suitable suppliers significantly reduces material purchasing cost, improves the competitiveness of businesses, increases flexibility and product quality and helps with speeding up the process of material purchasing. This is why many experts believe that supplier selection is the most important activity in a purchasing department.

The term *SCM* was first used in the 1980s and as such is a relatively new discipline within a management theory about tools and concepts still being developed (Lummus, Vokurka 1999). Many definitions have been used to explain SCM: an integrating philosophy to manage the total flow of a distribution channel from supplier to ultimate customer (Ellram, Cooper 1990), the management of upstream and downstream relationships with suppliers and customers to deliver a superior customer value at less cost to the supply chain as a whole (Christopher 1998), etc. The subject is multi-disciplinary and has its origins in a number of fields, including purchasing, logistics and operations.

Given its multi-disciplinary nature, there is a requirement for cross-boundary management (Lummus, Vokurka 1999). Whichever definition is applied in today's dynamic business environments, cost-effective SCM is a matter of survival as purchased goods and services account for up to 80 percent of sales revenue (Quayle 2003). When building the idea of SCM as a strategic shift in company's governing principles, SCM must be seen as professional practice and the one that is at the heart of a corporate strategy of the organization (Quayle 2003). The importance of effective SCM can also be seen in the ability of an organization to gain competitive advantage.

Owing to the fact that external pressure from consumers requires organizations to focus on better quality, lower prices, shorter lead times and greater cost efficiencies to achieve the above requirements, there is growing recognition of the need to externalize SCM and take a holistic view focusing on relationships in order to secure more profitable outcomes for all parties in the chain (Christopher 1998). Therefore, the selection of the best supplier for such relationships is becoming a critical issue for most organizations in each industry alike.

Supplier selection is a multiple criteria decision-making (MCDM) problem affected by several conflicting factors. Consequently, a purchasing manager must analyze trade-off between several criteria. MCDM techniques support decision-makers (DMs) in evaluating a set of alternatives (Amid, Ghodsypour 2006). The problem of supplier selection in a supply chain system is a group decision based on multiple criteria. Besides, purchase managers should especially know the most appropriate method and then use it for selecting the right supplier. It is because the right supplier could work with companies closely and offer the sustained company competitive advantages such as low purchase prices, on time products, high product quality and customer satisfaction. Since there is a lack of studies related to such

topic in Iran, supplier selection is therefore one of the most important problems encountered by a number of companies in Iran due to the fact that most of those have currently failed to benefit by selecting their suppliers.

Quite a few traditional MCDM methods such as COmplex PROportional ASsessment – COPRAS (Zavadskas, Kaklauskas 1996), AHP (Saaty 1990), ARAS (Zavadskas, Turskis 2010; Zavadskas *et al.* 2010b), etc. can be introduced. Specifically, AHP is initially used for calculating the weight of each criterion and the COPRAS-G method is employed for ranking and selecting the target suppliers. AHP is a tool for complex problems where both qualitative and quantitative aspects need to be considered. AHP could reduce the risk of making the wrong decision through breaking down the decision problem into a hierarchy of more easily comprehended sub-problems. It utilizes the consistency index and the random index to verify the consistency of the comparison matrix (Saaty 1990). Therefore, AHP is a useful method for weighting and ranking alternatives. COPRAS-G (Zavadskas *et al.* 2008a) and ARAS-G (Turskis, Zavadskas 2010) methods are based on the Grey system theory and Grey relational analysis. The advantages of that are as follows: involves simple calculations and requires a smaller number of samples; a typical distribution of samples is not required; quantified outcomes from grey relational grade do not result in contradictory conclusions to qualitative analysis; the Grey relational grade model is a transfer functional model effective in dealing with discrete data (Deng 1982). Both methods, including AHP (Liberatore, Nydick 2008; Sivilevicius 2011a, b) and COPRAS-G (Zavadskas *et al.* 2008b; Datta *et al.* 2009; Hashemkhani Zolfani *et al.* 2011) have been applied to many management decision-making situations. For supplier selection, this research uses a hybrid MCDM model encompassing AHP and the COmplex PROportional ASsessment of alternatives to Grey relations (COPRAS-G method).

2. The problem of selecting suppliers to construction

At present, the study of supplier selection has been a very popular question for discussions on the worldwide basis. A number of evaluation criteria that could significantly impact the successful selection of suppliers have been proposed. The main factors to consider include time (T), quality (Q), cost (C) and service (S) and are the key factors for getting success in the process of choosing suppliers. The cost of the construction project could be broadly divided into three major groups, namely materials, labour and overhead. In addition, the cost of the labour is generally governed by the availability of workers within proximity; only construction materials can provide the greatest flexibility in seeking lower cost for construction companies. The model of supplier selection must include two general skills: effective and efficient. The “best” suppliers take a proposal concerning the right cost in the right quantity with the right quality and at the right time has a significant effect on business success in property developers.

Furthermore, Shuyong and Rongqiu (1998) maintained that supplier evaluation should rely on the following attributes: quality, delivery period, batch flexibility, the balance between the delivery period and price, the balance between the price and batch, variety, etc. Shihua and Xubin (2002) developed an integrated evaluating attribute system for selecting co-partners under the circumstances of supply chain management and generalized four main factors

that could affect co-partner selection: outstanding achievement of an enterprise, operation structure and throughput, quality system and enterprise environment. Lijuan (2002) proposed that criteria for supplier selection were composed of nine evaluating attributes: product quality, product price, after service, distance, technological level, supply capability, economic revenue, delivery and market influence. In construction industry, suppliers offer heavy equipment and machinery, labour, building materials, service expertise, etc. (Florez-Lopez 2007; Ustun, Demirtas 2008; Lam *et al.* 2010). Due to the nature of construction industry, such specialization of work and the fragmentation of the overall process taking into account the coordination of the procurement process of supply chain members becomes a challenging task. Therefore, an important point is the selection of the right supplier in each life cycle of construction building (see Figure 1).

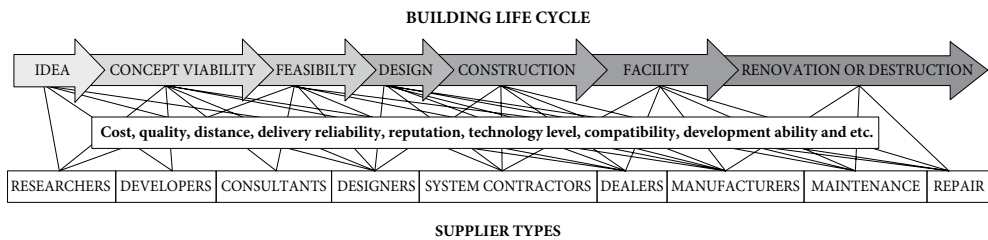


Fig. 1. Supplier types of building life cycle

The study has summarized the latest studies on supplier selection and pointed out eight evaluation criteria: cost, quality, distance, delivery reliability, reputation, technology level, compatibility and development ability.

3. Model for selecting suppliers based on AHP and COPRAS-G methods

The problem of supporting supplier selection have been analyzed by a number of authors. Also, there are numerous evaluation methods for selecting the required suppliers. Additionally, Xu *et al.* (2009) put forward the rough data envelopment analysis model (DEA) to deal with the problem of supplier selection. Furthermore, Shiromaru (2000) adopted the fuzzy programming approach to dealing with the problems of fuzzy goals in the process of supplier selection and used inheritance arithmetic to request the solution. Moreover, Zhu (2004) simplified DEA through the game model of swapper twain stages and conducted efficiency interior to evaluate suppliers. Shihua and Xubin (2002) published a Grey relating model to settle supplier evaluation on the weight of evaluation criteria. Numerous researches concentrate on the problem of selecting supplier using different methods (Baležentis, A., Baležentis, T. 2011). Therefore, the aim of this study is to overcome this deficiency referring to the oldest and most famous company producing disposable containers in Iran as a case of a hybrid MCDM model encompassing AHP and COPRAS-G methods.

AHP not only helps with the analysis of arriving at the best decision but also provides a clear rational orientation to the made choices, involves the principles of decomposition,

pair-wise comparisons and the generation and synthesis of priority vectors. COPRAS-G is a distinct measure that combines qualitative and quantitative factors such as trust and feature state (Madhuri, Chandulal 2010). It assumes the direct and proportional dependence of the significance and utility degree of investigated versions on a system of attributes adequately describing the alternatives, values and weights of the attributes (Zavadskas *et al.* 2008a, b, 2009, 2010a). Hence, AHP and COPRAS-G combined are useful and flexible MCDM methods for discovering the aim of this study.

Hybrid MCDM model

The proposed hybrid MCDM model for problem solving consists of AHP and COPRAS-G methods. Saaty proposed AHP as a multiple criteria decision-making method applied to overcoming problems under uncertain conditions. The goal of COPRAS-G method finds the rational solution by applying utility degree of each alternative using criterion values expressed in intervals. Proposed hybrid MCDM model to pursue the decision-maker find the rational solution. Hierarchy appraisal and decomposition of the problem separation makes it possible to describe the problem. The goal of the proposed model achieve a more accurate solution. The elements of hierarchy can relate to any aspect of the decision problem such as tangible or intangible, carefully measured or roughly estimated, well or poorly understood, i.e. anything that applies to the decision at hand. It has been well utilized in several fields (Saaty 1990) that require choosing alternatives and weight exploration of evaluation indices like business (Angelou, Economides 2009), industry (Chen, Wang 2010) and healthcare (Liberatore, Nydick 2008).

Decision analysis is concerned with the situation when a decision-maker has to choose among several alternatives considering a particular set of evaluation criteria. For this reason, the COPRAS-G method can be applied. In 1982, Deng developed the Grey system theory. The idea of the COPRAS-G method, along with criterion values expressed in the intervals, is based on real conditions for decision making and applications for the Grey system theory that uses a stepwise ranking and evaluating procedure of alternatives in terms of significance and utility degree (Zavadskas *et al.* 2008b). Research on the selection model of construction supplier is based on grey relevancy presented by Wang and Guo (2007) and fuzzy multiple criteria introduced by Wang (2008). In this case, the hybrid MCDM model encompassing AHP and COPRAS-G methods for reaching a solution to the problem is presented in Figure 2.

In the past, 13 major conditions were discovered to be well suited to the utilization of AHP and included setting priorities, generating a set of alternatives, choosing the best alternatives for the policy, determining requirements, allocating resources, predicting outcomes, measuring performance, designing systems, ensuring system stability, optimization, planning, resolving conflict and risk assessment (Saaty 1990). Construction environment is risky, and therefore the risk of construction was analyzed by Zavadskas *et al.* (2010a). The calculation of AHP is the adopted ratio scale for developing a pair-wise comparison matrix. Ratio values from 1 to 9 are given to each sub-scale and presented in Table 1, which can be typically categorized into five sub-scales based on different levels of importance. There are still four sub-scales above the five major sub-scales making a total of nine sub-scales.

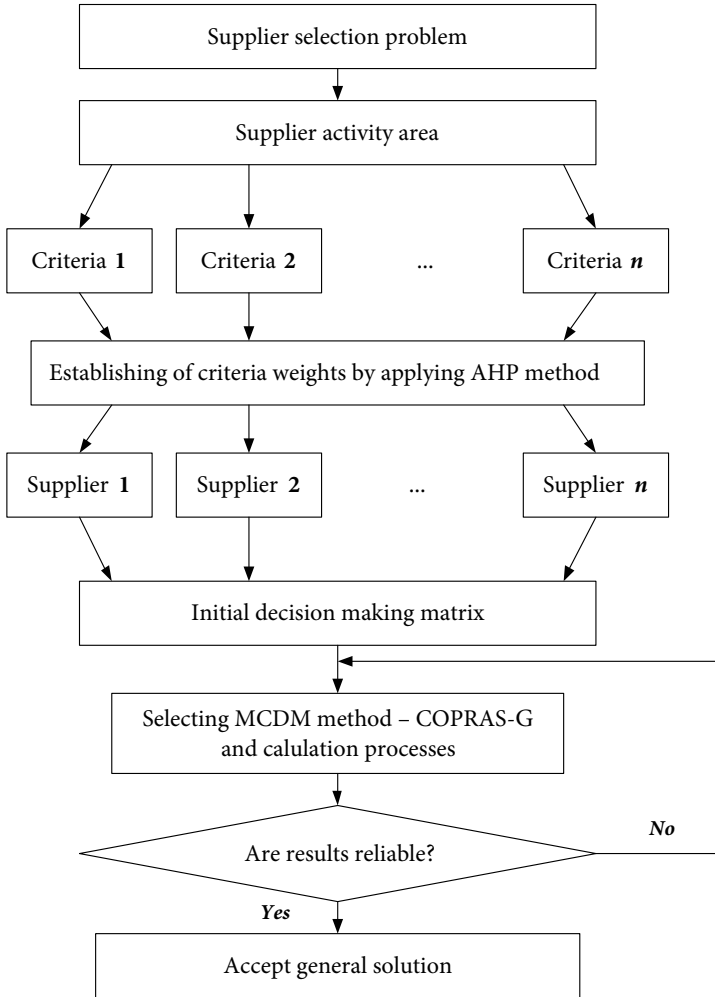


Fig. 2. The proposed hybrid model MCDM encompassing AHP and COPRAS-G methods

Table 1. The ratio scale and definition of AHP (Saaty 1990)

Intensity of importance	Definition
1	Equal importance
3	Somewhat more important
5	Much more important
7	Very much more important
9	Absolutely more important
2, 4, 6, 8	Intermediate values

A review of recent applications for AHP, COPRAS and COPRAS-G methods is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Recent applications for AHP, COPRAS and COPRAS-G

MCDM method	Reference	Considered problem
AHP	Medineckiene <i>et al.</i> (2010)	Sustainable construction
	Podvezko <i>et al.</i> (2010)	Evaluation of contracts
	Sivilevicius (2011a)	Modelling transport system
	Sivilevicius (2011b)	Quality of technology
	Fouladgar <i>et al.</i> (2011)	Prioritizing strategies
	Zavadskas <i>et al.</i> (2011a)	Enterprises management
	Zavadskas <i>et al.</i> (2012)	Selecting a project manager
COPRAS	Chatterjee <i>et al.</i> (2011)	Material selection based on COPRAS and EVAMIX methods
	Podvezko (2011)	Comparative analysis of MCDM methods (SAW and COPRAS)
COPRAS-G	Zavadskas <i>et al.</i> (2011b)	Assessment of the indoor environment
	Hashemkhani Zolfani <i>et al.</i> (2011)	Locating forest roads
	Chatterjee and Chakraborty (2012)	Using COPRAS-G method

The calculation steps of AHP are as follows (Saaty 1990):

The first step is structuring a problem as hierarchy.

The second step is the elicitation of a judgment on pair wise comparison.

The third step is establishing the composite or global priorities of alternatives.

The procedure of applying the COPRAS-G method consists of the following steps (Zavadskas *et al.* 2009):

1. Selecting the set of the most important criteria describing alternatives.
2. Constructing decision-making matrix $\otimes X$:

$$\otimes X = \begin{bmatrix} [\otimes x_{11}] & [\otimes x_{12}] & \cdots & [\otimes x_{1m}] \\ [\otimes x_{21}] & [\otimes x_{22}] & \cdots & [\otimes x_{2m}] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ [\otimes x_{n1}] & [\otimes x_{n2}] & \cdots & [\otimes x_{nm}] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [x_{11}; \bar{x}_{11}] & [x_{12}; \bar{x}_{12}] & \cdots & [x_{1m}; \bar{x}_{1m}] \\ [x_{21}; \bar{x}_{21}] & [x_{22}; \bar{x}_{22}] & \cdots & [x_{2m}; \bar{x}_{2m}] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ [x_{n1}; \bar{x}_{n1}] & [x_{n2}; \bar{x}_{n2}] & \cdots & [x_{nm}; \bar{x}_{nm}] \end{bmatrix}; \quad j = \overline{1, n}; \quad i = \overline{1, m}, \quad (1)$$

where $\otimes x_{ji}$ is determined by x_{ji} (lowest value, lower limit) and \bar{x}_{ji} (highest value, higher limit).

3. Determining the significance of criteria q_i .

4. Normalized values of decision-making matrix $\otimes X$ are calculated applying formula 2:

$$\underline{x}_{ji} = \frac{x_{ji}}{\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_{ji} + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_{ji} \right)} = \frac{2x_{ji}}{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_{ji} + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_{ji} \right)}, \quad \bar{x}_{ji} = \frac{\bar{x}_{ji}}{\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_{ji} + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_{ji} \right)} = \frac{2\bar{x}_{ji}}{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_{ji} + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_{ji} \right)};$$

$j = \overline{1, n}; \quad i = \overline{1, m},$ (2)

where \underline{x}_{ji} is a lower value of criterion i in alternative j of the achieved solution; \bar{x}_{ji} is a higher value of criterion i in alternative j of the achieved solution; m is the number of criteria; n is the number of compared alternatives.

The decision-making matrix is normalized applying Formula 3:

$$\otimes \tilde{X} = \begin{bmatrix} [\tilde{x}_{11}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{11}] & [\tilde{x}_{12}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{12}] & \cdots & [\tilde{x}_{1m}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{1m}] \\ [\tilde{x}_{21}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{21}] & [\tilde{x}_{22}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{22}] & \cdots & [\tilde{x}_{2m}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{2m}] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ [\tilde{x}_{n1}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{n1}] & [\tilde{x}_{n2}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{n2}] & \cdots & [\tilde{x}_{nm}; \tilde{\bar{x}}_{nm}] \end{bmatrix}. \tag{3}$$

5. When calculating the weighted normalized decision matrix $\otimes \hat{X}$, the weighted normalized values $\otimes \hat{x}_{ji}$ are calculated as follows:

$$\otimes \hat{x}_{ji} = \otimes \tilde{x}_{ji} \cdot q_i; \text{ or } \hat{x}_{ji} = \tilde{x}_{ji} \cdot q_i \text{ and } \tilde{\bar{x}}_{ji} = \tilde{\bar{x}}_{ji} \cdot q_i, \tag{4}$$

where q_i is the significance of the i -th criterion. Then, the weighted normalized decision-making matrix $\otimes \hat{X}$ is

$$\otimes \hat{X} = \begin{bmatrix} [\otimes \hat{x}_{11}] & [\otimes \hat{x}_{12}] & \cdots & [\otimes \hat{x}_{1m}] \\ [\otimes \hat{x}_{21}] & [\otimes \hat{x}_{22}] & \cdots & [\otimes \hat{x}_{2m}] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ [\otimes \hat{x}_{n1}] & [\otimes \hat{x}_{n2}] & \cdots & [\otimes \hat{x}_{nm}] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [\hat{x}_{11}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{11}] & [\hat{x}_{12}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{12}] & \cdots & [\hat{x}_{1m}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{1m}] \\ [\hat{x}_{21}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{21}] & [\hat{x}_{22}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{22}] & \cdots & [\hat{x}_{2m}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{2m}] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ [\hat{x}_{n1}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{n1}] & [\hat{x}_{n2}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{n2}] & \cdots & [\hat{x}_{nm}; \hat{\bar{x}}_{nm}] \end{bmatrix}. \tag{5}$$

6. When calculating the sums P_j of criterion values, higher values are more preferable:

$$P_j = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k (\hat{x}_{ji} + \hat{\bar{x}}_{ji}), \tag{6}$$

where k is the number of attributes to be maximized.

7. Calculating the sums R_j of attribute values, lower values are more preferable:

$$R_j = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=k+1}^m (\hat{x}_{ji} + \hat{\bar{x}}_{ji}); \quad i = \overline{k, m}, \tag{7}$$

where $(m - k)$ is the number of attributes to be minimized.

8. Calculating the relative significance of each alternatively Q_j , the expression is as follows:

$$Q_j = P_j + \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n R_j}{R_j \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{R_j}}. \tag{8}$$

9. The optimally criterion by K is calculated by applying the formula:

$$K = \max_j Q_j, \quad j = \overline{1, n}. \tag{9}$$

10. For calculating the utility degree of each alternative, the formula is as follows:

$$N_j = \frac{Q_j}{Q_{\max}} \times 100\%, \tag{10}$$

where Q_j and Q_{\max} are the relative significance of alternatives obtained from Equation (8).

11. When applying the calculation results of N_j the order of alternative priority is constructed.

4. A case study: selecting a supplier company

The aim of this case study is to utilize a new hybrid model of MCDM methods for selecting a supplier. A case company for selecting a supplier is Kalleh Company, the oldest and most famous company producing disposable containers in Iran.

4.1. Selecting criteria and survey data

Kalleh Company tends to select one supplier among three partners. As highlighted previously, eight evaluation criteria are used.

Criteria for selecting a supplier include:

- ⊗ x_1 – cost;
- ⊗ x_2 – quality;
- ⊗ x_3 – distance;
- ⊗ x_4 – delivery reliability;
- ⊗ x_5 – reputation;
- ⊗ x_6 – technology level;
- ⊗ x_7 – compatibility;
- ⊗ x_8 – development ability.

Based on the nature of eight criteria for evaluation, optimization directions for each criterion are determined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\otimes x_{2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8} \xrightarrow{\text{optimal direction (max)}} \\ &\otimes x_{1, 3} \xrightarrow{\text{optimal direction (min)}} \end{aligned}$$

Then, a questionnaire was sent to a group of 10 senior experts the majority of which have been working in the companies producing disposable containers for at least six years. All of 10 questionnaires have been finally determined to be utilized for this study with a total response rate of 100%. Demographic information is provided in Table 3. 70 per cent of the respondents are males. More than a half (60%) of the surveyed participants are between 31 and 40 years of age. 60% of the respondents have served between 6 and 10 years and about 30% – under 5 years. 50% of the respondents are BA graduates and 100% of those have industrial background. Their ratings adopted the ratio scale as given in Table 1 with respect to the importance of evaluation criteria; ratings used a range of 0–100 with regard to the initial decision-making matrix $\otimes X$.

Table 3. Demographic information

Variable	Items	N	Percentage	Variable	Items	N	Percentage
1. Sex	(1) Male	7	70%	4. Education background	(1) Vocational	0	0%
	(2) Female	3	30%		(2) Bachelor	5	50%
2. Age	(1) Under 30	2	20%		(3) Master	4	40%
	(2) 31–40	6	60%		(4) Doctoral	1	10%
	(3) 41–50	2	20%	5. Occupational background	(1) Academic	0	0%
	(4) Above 51	0	0%		(2) Industrial	10	100%
			(3) Governmental		0	0%	
3. Service tenure	(1) Under 5	3	30%				
	(2) 6–10	6	60%				
	(3) 11–20	1	10%				
	(4) Above 21	0	0%				

4.2. Selection of the best supplier

After summarizing the opinions of senior experts and following the steps of AHP, the weights of evaluation criteria are provided in Table 4. The table also indicates the initial decision-making matrix $\otimes X$ and the values of evaluation criteria are described in intervals. The initial decision-making matrix $\otimes X$ has been normalized and weighted initially and the obtained result ($\otimes \hat{X}$) is provided in Table 5. In accordance with the steps of COPRAS-G, the evaluation of three suppliers is computed and ranking suppliers for Kalleh Company is finally discovered (Table 6).

Table 4. The initial decision-making matrix and the values of evaluation criteria described in intervals

Criterion	Optimal direction	Weights	Initial decision making matrix		
			Supplier		
			S_1	S_2	S_3
$\otimes x_1$	min	0.160	[60; 70]	[80; 90]	[40; 60]
$\otimes x_2$	max	0.158	[70; 80]	[90; 95]	[60; 70]
$\otimes x_3$	min	0.060	[80; 90]	[70; 80]	[40; 60]
$\otimes x_4$	max	0.150	[90; 95]	[80; 90]	[70; 80]
$\otimes x_5$	max	0.135	[40; 60]	[60; 70]	[70; 80]
$\otimes x_6$	max	0.178	[60; 70]	[80; 90]	[70; 80]
$\otimes x_7$	max	0.045	[80; 90]	[70; 80]	[60; 70]
$\otimes x_8$	max	0.114	[70; 80]	[90; 95]	[80; 90]
$q_i = 1$					

Table 5. Normalized and weighted-normalized decision-making matrix and the values of evaluation criteria described in intervals

Criterion	Normalized decision making matrix			Weighted-normalized decision making matrix		
	Supplier			Supplier		
	S_1	S_2	S_3	S_1	S_2	S_3
$\hat{x}_{1n}; \hat{x}_{1n}$	[0.300; 0.350]	[0.400; 0.450]	[0,200; 0,300]	[0.048; 0.056]	[0.064; 0.072]	[0.032; 0.048]
$\hat{x}_{2n}; \hat{x}_{2n}$	[0.297; 0.342]	[0.386; 0.405]	[0,253; 0,297]	[0.047; 0.054]	[0.061; 0.064]	[0.040; 0.047]
$\hat{x}_{3n}; \hat{x}_{3n}$	[0.367; 0.417]	[0.333; 0.367]	[0,183; 0,283]	[0.022; 0.025]	[0.020; 0.022]	[0.011; 0.017]
$\hat{x}_{4n}; \hat{x}_{4n}$	[0.353; 0.373]	[0.313; 0.353]	[0,273; 0,313]	[0.053; 0.056]	[0.047; 0.053]	[0.041; 0.047]
$\hat{x}_{5n}; \hat{x}_{5n}$	[0.207; 0.311]	[0.311; 0.363]	[0,363; 0,415]	[0.028; 0.042]	[0.042; 0.049]	[0.049; 0.056]
$\hat{x}_{6n}; \hat{x}_{6n}$	[0.264; 0.309]	[0.354; 0.399]	[0,309; 0,354]	[0.047; 0.055]	[0.063; 0.071]	[0.055; 0.063]
$\hat{x}_{7n}; \hat{x}_{7n}$	[0.356; 0.400]	[0.311; 0.356]	[0,267; 0,311]	[0.016; 0.018]	[0.014; 0.016]	[0.012; 0.014]
$\hat{x}_{8n}; \hat{x}_{8n}$	[0.272; 0.316]	[0.351; 0.368]	[0,316; 0,351]	[0.031; 0.036]	[0.040; 0.042]	[0.036; 0.040]

Table 6. Evaluation of utility degree

Supplier	S_1	S_2	S_3
P_j	0.249	0.281	0.25
R_j	0.075	0.094	0.054
Q_j	0.318	0.336	0.347
N_j	91.64%	96.82%	100%

The weights of the criteria were determined applying the AHP method. The assessment results of alternatives are presented in Table 6. Ranking alternatives applying AHP and COPRAS-G methods are presented in Tables 5 and 6. Specifically, according to N_j , ranking obtained in the procedure of supplier selection is as follows: $Supplier_3 > Supplier_2 > Supplier_1$. It is advised that the supplier corresponding to the highest utility degree should be selected as the best one (e.g. $Supplier_3$). The overall results of the COPRAS-G method and ranking are summarized in Table 6.

5. Generalization

Dynamic business environments lead to selecting the best suppliers that are very important for companies. The model of supplier selection is the foundation of supply chain cooperation that seems to be a MCDM problem involving numerous tasks (evaluation criteria).

The paper has developed a hybrid model of the MCDM method. The proposed model consists of AHP for weighing eight evaluation criteria and the COPRAS-G method for evaluating performance. Research focuses on the problem of selecting a supply company at the national and international level. The proposed SCM model can also be a guide to other foreign companies efficiently selecting their suppliers for the decision-making process.

On the basis of calculated results of AHP and COPRAS-G methods, the best supplier for Kalleh Company has been verified. By applying calculation results, ranking obtained in the procedure of supplier selection is as follows: $Supplier_3 > Supplier_2 > Supplier_1$.

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