

Operations Management Research

Empirical Research in Operations Management

Wikipedia defines Empirical Research as "research that bases its findings on direct or indirect observations as its test of reality". The focus of empirical research often is to use data from observations to describe, predict and validate the research issue being investigated.

The field of Operations Management has traditionally been more analytically driven, with the emphasis being on the development of theoretical models to make optimal decisions (the "OR approach") or to derive qualitative insights on observations in practice (the "economist approach").

Empirical research provides an opportunity to marry these rich theoretical models with real data from practice, to advance the state of the art and create profound impact similar to what has been achieved in fields like academic medicine and physics.