

Aggregate Planning and Inventory Management in Textile Industry

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Abstract: The project mainly deals with inventorial management in a textile industry manufacturing fabric from yarn. Textile industries have a tendency to over stock their raw material inventory when the prices are low in anticipation of price hikes, this ends up causing loss to the industry in the form of spoiled inventory. The main focus is pertaining to one particular stock, 80s yarn. The existing inventory model was studied and a model was proposed to replace the qualitative inventory model with a quantitative one. The optimal utilization of resources was considered through aggregate planning. A suitable inventory model and an effective resource utilization is expected to bring down the costs incurred thus increasing the supply chain surplus making it more efficient. Other benefits of a stable inventory model are ease of planning of other activities, steady lead time etc. The end results are concerning Inventory valuation, Future inventory price forecast and optimal inventory levels calculations.

Key words: Supply Chain Management, Aggregate planning, Forecasting, Inventory, Demand, Economic order quantity.

1. Introduction

Supply chain management (SCM), the management of the flow of goods and services, involves the movement and storage of raw materials, of work-in-process inventory, and of finished goods from point of origin to point of consumption. Interconnected or interlinked networks, channels and node businesses combine in the provision of products and services required by end customers in a supply chain[1,2]. The supply chain includes not only the manufacturer and suppliers, but also transporters, warehouses, retailers, and even customers themselves[2]. Within each organization, such as a manufacturer, the supply chain includes all functions involved in receiving and filling a customer request[3]. These functions include, but are not limited to, new product development, marketing, operations, distribution, finance, and customer service[3]. Inventory exists in the supply chain because of a mismatch between supply and demand. This mismatch is intentional at a steel manufacturer, where it is economical to manufacture in large lots that are then stored for future sales[4]. The mismatch is also intentional at a retail store where inventory is held in anticipation of future demand or when the retail store builds up inventory to prepare for a surge in sales during the holiday season. In these instances, inventory is held to reduce cost or increase the level of product availability[1,2].

The first few papers focus on storing of perishable items. Since the work is more a yarn inventory, and yarn being a perishable item, those papers help in studying in storing methods[4]. Forecasting is an important part of the work. It is important to choose an appropriate method for forecasting. Moreover the chosen method should have minimum error. Various methods like MA method and MSVR are learnt from the papers.

There is a strong relationship between inventory and the organisational performance[6]. This can be measured in terms of few constants. SWOT analysis involves preparation of long questionnaires and field work. The knowledge of industrial forces in 2014 paper helps in creating questionnaires. Cotton yarn is a product of cotton and cotton is an agricultural product. The variation of cotton prices is very random and very subtle. It is important to learn about the nature of the variation of the price.

2. Industry Overview

Bannari Amman Spinning Mills Limited commenced spinning operations in the year 1995 with an installed capacity of 30,000 spindles. The weaving division started in the year 2009 is located in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu with a plant area 2.2 Lakh sq.ft. They serve to be one of the leading fabric exporters in South India. Spinning mills producing 60 tons of Yarn per day. Weaving Wider & Narrow width looms producing 7.5 lakh metres per month. They work on 5s, 6s, 7s, 10s, 20s, 30, 80s, and 205OE varieties of yarn.[7]

They produce fabrics of plain, checked, drill and twill varieties. They also have garmenting facilities to provide ultimate finished products. The products of the garmenting facilities are table cloth, bed spreads, pillow

covers, etc. The industry has Italian warping machines like Karl Mayer Warpdirect. Sizing machines are also from Italian Manufacturer Size-O-Matic. High speed weaving machines are from the manufacturer Pimacott.

3. Aggregate Planning

Aggregate planning is a process by which a company determines planned levels of capacity, production, subcontracting, inventory, stock outs, and even pricing over a specified time horizon. The goal of aggregate planning is to build a plan that satisfies demand while maximizing profit[8]. Aggregate planning, as the name suggests, solves problems involving aggregate decisions rather than stock-keeping unit (SKU)-level decisions. For example, aggregate planning determines the total production level in a plant for a given month, but it does so without determining the quantity of each individual SKU that will be produced. This level of detail makes aggregate planning a useful tool for thinking about decisions with an intermediate time frame of between roughly 3 and 18 months[8,9]. The aggregate plan serves as a broad blueprint for operations and establishes the parameters within which short-term production and distribution decisions are made. The aggregate plan allows the supply chain to alter capacity allocations and change supply contracts[9].

4. Problem Definition

Bannari Amman Industries' weaving facility has a production capacity of 7.5lac meters of fabric per month. Industries working on very large product quantities will have great probabilities of high wastage. The industry is facing inventorial wastes for past 8 months. The wastages are 6-9% in various situations. These wastages account for very large amount of economical loss. This is the place where more concentration is needed[7].

Raw material prices and labour cost impact are to be studied using aggregate planning[9]. Cotton prices are very prone to serious variation. The variations cannot be minimised, but the variations can be predicted. Plenty of resources – Capital, man and machinery. The resources are plenty, but proper allocation has to be done in order to ensure that optimum usage of resources like labour and machineries are done.

5. Methodology

Based on the synthesis made above a practical methodology was adopted to carry out the project. The methodology is shown in below. The methodology involves all the processes mentioned in the synthesis.

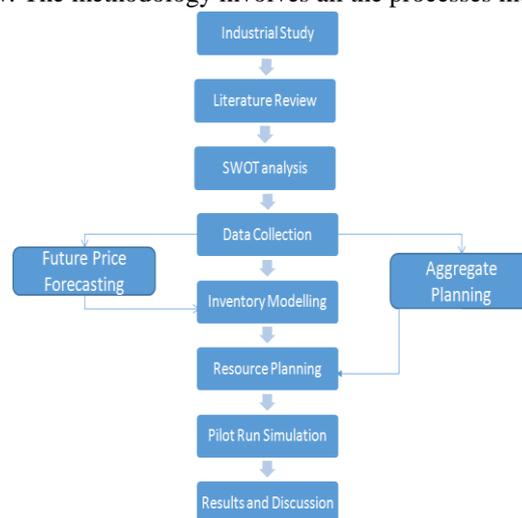


Figure 1 Methodology

6. Swot Analysis

SWOT analysis is an acronym for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and is a structured planning method that evaluates those four elements of an organization, project or business venture[10]. A SWOT analysis can be carried out for a company, product, place, industry, or person. It involves specifying the objective of the business venture or project and identifying the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieve that objective[10,11]. The degree to which the internal environment of the firm matches with the external environment is expressed by the concept of strategic fit.

Identification of SWOTs is important because they can inform later steps in planning to achieve the objective. First, decision-makers should consider whether the objective is attainable, given the SWOTs. If the

objective is not attainable, they must select a different objective and repeat the process. The forces acting on a industry are used in making a strategic decisions.

Table 1 SWOT matrix

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STRENGTH</u></p> <p>1. Having Bannari Amman Spinning mills as an own asset. 2. One of the few companies using Italian Weaving machines like WarpDirect, Karl Mayer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEAKNESS</u></p> <p>1. Moderately lacking in present textile technology. 2. Absence of Dyeing facilities. 3. Moderately high machinery maintenance costs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OPPORTUNITIE S</u></p> <p>1. In process waste reselling abilities and waste recovery. 2. Scope for Mass customisation. 3. Dyeing facility</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>THREATS</u></p> <p>1. Government regulations like GST and demonetisation. 2. Economic catastrophes like price hike of raw materials. 3. Inventory wastage.</p>

The industry has its own spinning mills which is a serious advantage helping in discount of raw materials. It is one of the industries which have the Italian Manufactured machines. All the machines including warping, sizing and weaving machines are Italian made. It has no dyeing facility. It affects vastly due to government policies and price fluctuation like raw material price hike. Policies like demonetization and GST come under threats category. The industry has a moderate scope for Mass- Customization.

7. Forecasting

Forecasting is the process of making predictions of the future based on past and present data and most commonly by analysis of trends[10]. A commonplace example might be estimation of some variable of interest at some specified future date. Prediction is a similar, but more general term. Both might refer to formal statistical methods employing time series, cross-sectional or longitudinal data, or alternatively to less formal judgmental methods. Usage can differ between areas of application: for example, in hydrology the terms "forecast" and "forecasting" are sometimes reserved for estimates of values at certain specific future times, while the term "prediction" is used for more general estimates, such as the number of times floods will occur over a long period[11].

Risk and uncertainty are central to forecasting and prediction; it is generally considered good practice to indicate the degree of uncertainty attaching to forecasts. In any case, the data must be up to date in order for the forecast to be as accurate as possible.

The forecasting requires data from the past to predict the future. The data collected from the industry is shown in the below table. The data involves past values of 24 months to predict the future 6 months. If the past data is more in number, the more accurate the future data would be.

Table 2 Input Data

Month	Cotton Price (Rs/Kg)
Jan-15	443
Feb-15	384
Mar-15	403
Apr-15	373
May-15	440
Jun-15	374
Jul-15	376
Aug-15	470

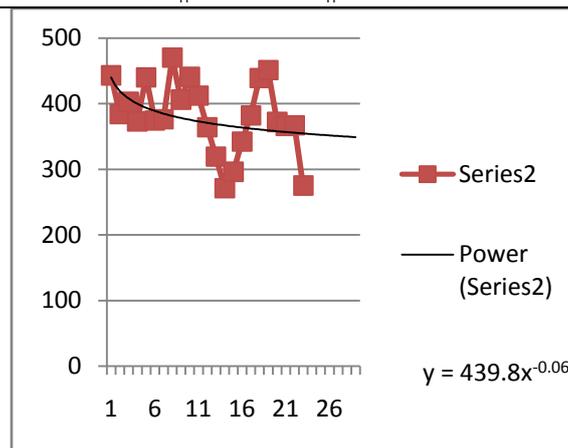


Figure 3 Moving average forecasting

Demand forecasting is the art and science of forecasting customer demand to drive holistic execution of such demand by corporate supply chain and business management. Demand forecasting involves techniques including both informal methods, such as educated guesses, and quantitative methods, such as the use of historical sales data and statistical techniques or current data from test markets. Demand forecasting may be used in production planning, inventory management, and at times in assessing future capacity requirements, or in making decisions on whether to enter a new market[12].

Table 3 Demand Forecasted results

S.No	Month	Demand Forecasted for 80s Yarn(Kgs)
1	Dec-16	6915
2	Jan-17	7950
3	Feb-17	7950
4	Mar-17	8295
5	Apr-17	9335
6	May17	9335

A good forecasting method will yield residuals that are uncorrelated and have zero mean. If there are correlations between residual values, then there is information left in the residuals which should be used in computing forecasts.

Table 4 Forecast error

Actual	Forecast Data	Error	Mean Error
443	439.87	0.126117381	
384	419.3274	0.042519352	
403	407.7585	0.086249272	
373	399.7442	-0.10792432	
440	393.6365	0.044628515	
374	388.7155	0.033998779	0.064256
376	384.6029	-0.22711989	
470	381.0756	-0.05303065	
406	377.9911	-0.15519426	
441	375.2531	-0.0833262	
412	372.7934	0.021343273	
364	370.562	0.141653742	

From the error values it is seen that the analytical method has a considerable positive error than software method. Hence the software results are considered as the final results for the forecast activity.

8. Inventory Modelling

The model adopted for this particular study is the manufacturing model with shortages. Manufacturing model, shown in figure, is chosen for this case because the replenishments are not instantaneous, rather the replenishment is made as the existing inventory is simultaneously being utilised for manufacturing[1,2].

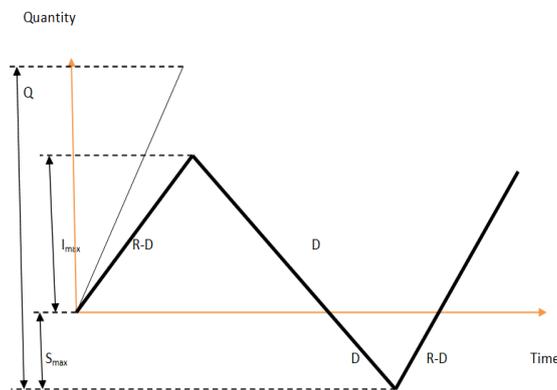


Figure 4 Manufacturing model with shortages

$$\text{Economic Order Quantity} = Q^* = \sqrt{\frac{2 \times C_1 \times D}{C_3}} \times \sqrt{\frac{C_3 + C_4}{C_4}} \times \sqrt{\frac{R}{R-D}} \dots\dots 1$$

$$\text{Optimum Shortage} = S^* = Q^* \times \left(\frac{C_3}{C_3 + C_4}\right) \times \left(\frac{R-D}{R}\right) \dots\dots 2$$

Total cost (TC) = Total cost of product + Ordering cost + Carrying cost + Shortage cost.

Total cost (TC) = $(C_1 * D) + (D/Q) * C_2 + [(R-D)*(Q-S)^2 / (2 * Q * R)] * C_3 + [(R-D) * S^2 / (2 * Q * R)] * C_4$
 Where, C1= 358 Rs/Kg , C2= Rs.9300/order, C3= Rs.3.65/month/item, C4= Rs.60/month/item, D= 9350 kg/month, R= 22000kg/Month

Safety stock term is used by logisticians to describe a level of extra stock that is maintained to mitigate risk of stock outs (shortfall in raw material or packaging) due to uncertainties in supply and demand[13].

Safety Stock = (Max lead time* max lead time demand)-(average lead time *average lead time demand)

Safety Stock = 1135 kg

The Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) is the number of units that a company should add to inventory with each order to minimize the total costs.

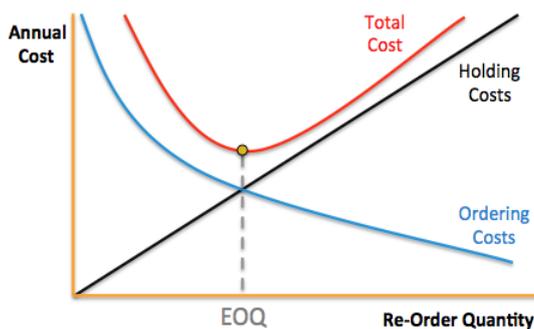


Figure 5 Cost Vs Quantity

Optimal order quantity $Q^* = 4857 \text{ kg}$

One of the assumptions of our basic EOQ model is that shortages and back ordering are not allowed. The fourth model variation that we will describe, the EOQ model with shortages, relaxes this assumption.

Optimum Shortage Quantity $S^* = 870 \text{ kg}$

The reorder point (ROP) is the level of inventory which triggers an action to replenish that particular inventory stock. It is a minimum amount of an item which a firm holds in stock, such that, when stock falls to this amount, the item must be reordered.

Reorder time = $(Q^* / D) = 15 \text{ days}$

Inventory turnover measures how fast a company is selling inventory and is generally compared against industry averages. A low turnover implies weak sales and, therefore, excess inventory. A high ratio implies either strong sales and/or large discounts[14].

ITO = Outgoing sales/ Average inventory

ITO= $(135000*210) / (4857*6*358)$

Inventory turnover ratio = **2.57**

Inventory turnover ratio for previous order = 1.33

The days sales of inventory value, or DSI, is a financial measure of a company's performance that gives investors an idea of how long it takes a company to turn its inventory (including goods that are a work in progress, if applicable) into sales.

Days Sales of Inventory = $\left(\frac{\text{Inventory}}{\text{Cost of Sales}} \right) \times 365$

DIO= $(57960 * 365) / (733.3*210)$

DIO= 137.38

DIO (previous order) = 192.95

Table 5 Inventory Resultant

Economic order quantity	4857 kg
Optimal Shortage quantity	870 kg
Re-order period	15 days
Safety Stock	1135 kg
ITO	2.57
DIO	137.38

9. Process Time Consideration and Utilisation of Resources

Based on the observations made in the industry the following times were observed for the processing of a given quantity of material for a one hour period on the particular days. The actual process times are useful in finding the value added and non-value added time for a particular item during the entire process, the utilisation of resources could also be found using the same data[15].

Table 6 Machining Time

S.NO	DATE	Warping		Sizing		Weaving		Inspection	
		Quantity(kg)	Time	Quantity (kg)	Time	Quantity (metre)	Time	Quantity (metre)	
1	28-12-2016	580.00	01:00:00	310	01:00:00	01:00:00	3500	01:00:00	420
2	29-12-2016	420.00	01:00:00	240	01:00:00	01:00:00	4700	01:00:00	390
3	30-12-2016	690.00	01:00:00	350	01:00:00	01:00:00	4450	01:00:00	400
4	31-12-2016	370.00	01:00:00	280	01:00:00	01:00:00	3800	01:00:00	410
5	03-01-2017	640.00	01:00:00	370	01:00:00	01:00:00	4100	01:00:00	420
6	04-01-2017	700.00	01:00:00	360	01:00:00	01:00:00	3700	01:00:00	420
7	05-01-2017	630.00	01:00:00	450	01:00:00	01:00:00	4250	01:00:00	420
8	06-01-2017	520.00	01:00:00	420	01:00:00	01:00:00	3600	01:00:00	410
9	10-01-2017	660.00	01:00:00	260	01:00:00	01:00:00	3400	01:00:00	390
10	11-01-2017	740.00	01:00:00	380	01:00:00	01:00:00	4500	01:00:00	400
11	24-01-2017	620.00	01:00:00	410	01:00:00	01:00:00	3200	01:00:00	420

Arena@ is a discrete event simulation software. Discrete event simulation describes a process with a set of unique, specific events in time. These flexible, activity-based models can be effectively used to simulate almost any process. Statistical data, such as cycle time and WIP (work in process) levels, can be recorded and made output as reports. The whole system simulation is thus created by building process upon process using modules. The action type seize delay release says that the particular resource mentioned (warping machine) is being occupied by the particular entity until it is done with the process and the delay is the time for processing.

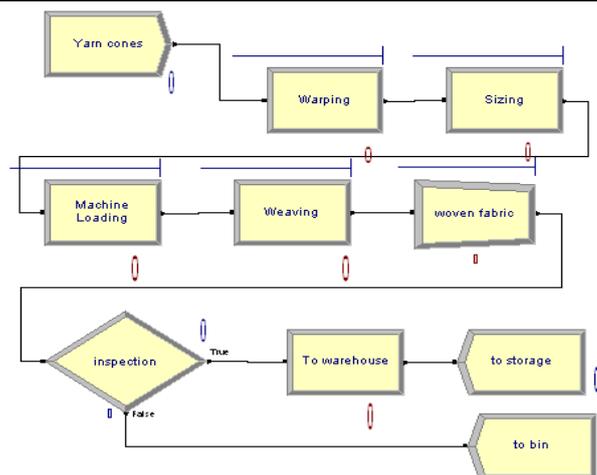


Figure 7 Arena Simulation

In the above model each entity represents 24kg of yarn, the process time for each module is the time taken for processing 24kg of yarn. The process durations are assumed to follow uniform distribution from the observations made. The inspection process is represented by a condition module while the weaving operation is represented by a batch and a process module, since the yarn is being woven into fabric a batch module is used that represents the conversion of 17 batches of entity (408kg of yarn) into one entity of fabric (1.5m x 1000m fabric).

Table 7 Arena Time results

Time	
VA Time	
	Average
Entity 1	2.2020
NVA Time	
	Average
Entity 1	2.5518

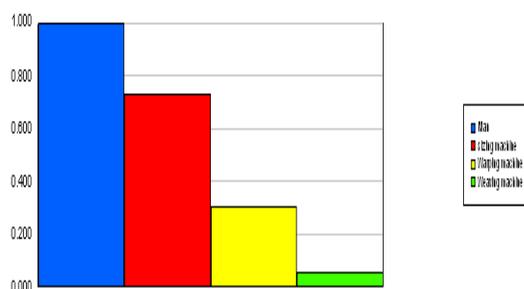


Figure 8 Percentage Utilisation 1

Table 8 Percentage Utilisation 2

Instantaneous Utilization	
	Average
Man	1.0000
sizing machine	0.7286
Warping machine	0.3047
Weaving machine	0.05228606

The man power utilisation is assumed to be optimal because the direct labour involved is very few compared to the background workers. The utilisation of the weaving machine is very low because if a linear continuous process like the one assumed in the simulation is assumed weaving can happen only after warping

and sizing happens, and since weaving is a comparatively quicker process the machine remains idle for most of the time. But in reality weaving happens warped and sized yarns from work in process inventory.

10. Aggregate Planning

Aggregate planning is an operational activity that does an aggregate **plan for the production process, in advance of 6 to 18 months**, to give an idea to management as to what quantity of materials and other resources are to be procured and when, so that the total cost of operations of the organization is kept to the minimum over that period. The quantity of outsourcing, subcontracting of items, overtime of labor, numbers to be hired and fired in each period and the amount of inventory to be held in stock and to be backlogged for each period are decided[16]. All of these activities are done within the framework of the **company ethics, policies, and long term commitment to the society, community and the country of operation.**

The industry’s requirement was to calculate how much workforce need to hired , laid off each period, how much yarn to purchase each period to meet the forecasted demand , the optimum stock out , optimum inventory level and last but not the least the minimum variable cost required to be spent in the planning horizon in **80s fabric division**. The planning horizon considered is 6 months.

Table 9 Aggregate Planning Data

Deciding Variables	Data
Item cost (80s Yarn)	Rs.350/kg
Holding inventory cost	Rs.3.65/month/item
Stock out marginal cost	Rs.60/month/item
Cost of Hiring & Training	Rs.10000/worker
Cost of Layoff	Rs.18000/worker
Labour hours required	2.09hrs/unit
Regular time cost	Rs.80/hr/worker
Overtime cost	Rs.160/hr/worker
No.of.employees in November	650
Maximum overtime	25hrs/month
Minimum inventory at end of 6th month	1135kgs

Regular Time cost is given by,

$$\sum_{t=1}^6 80 * 8 * 20 * W(t) \dots\dots\dots 1$$

Overtime cost is

$$\sum_{t=1}^6 160 * O(t) \dots\dots\dots 2$$

Cost of Hiring and layoff is represented as

$$\sum_{t=1}^6 10,000 * H(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 18,000 * L(t) \dots\dots\dots 3$$

Inventory stockout cost is denoted by,

$$\sum_{t=1}^6 3.65 * I(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 60 * S(t) \dots\dots\dots 4$$

And the item cost is represented as,

$$\sum_{t=1}^6 350 * P(t) \dots\dots\dots 5$$

The objective is to minimize the following function.

$$Z \text{ (minimize)} = \sum_{t=1}^6 80 * 8 * 20 * W(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 160 * O(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 10,000 * H(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 18,000 * L(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 3.65 * I(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 60 * S(t) + \sum_{t=1}^6 350 * P(t) \dots\dots\dots 6$$

The following are the constraints for the above objective function.

11. Inventory at the end of sixth month should be at least 1135kgs.
12. All decision variables should be non-negative.
13. Maximum overtime permitted is 25 hours per month per worker.
14. Balancing of workforces.
15. Production capacity is limited by the number of working hours and hence the production constraint is given.
16. Balancing of inventory and production.

The objective and constraint functions are grouped as respective matrices. The matrices are entered in to the excel worksheet[12].

1. After creating the three matrixes, the Solver is clicked by going for the menu data.

2. The solver parameters dialog box opens.
3. In that box , the following are given as input
4. Set Objective : \$C\$22 [since the C22 cell contains the total cost]
5. To : Min [since the objective is to minimize the total cost]
6. By Changing Variable Cells : \$B\$5:\$H\$10 [since the decision variables which need to modified to get the optimum solution is entered in cell B5 to H10]
7. Subject to the Constraints: By clicking add all the constraints from eqn 2 to 9 are entered as shown in figure.
8. Select a Solving Method : Simplex LP [since our problem revolves around Linear Programming]
9. Click Solve

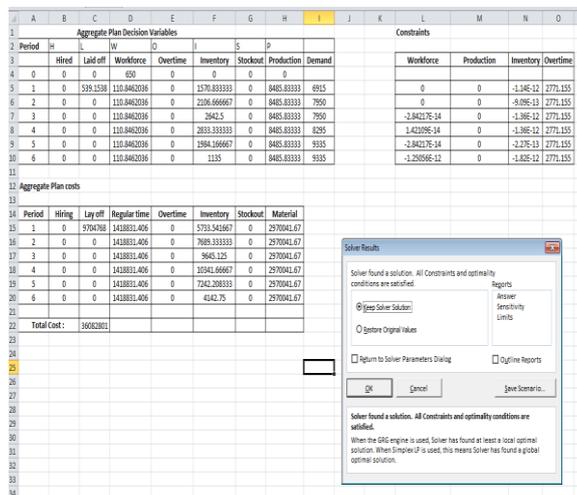


Figure 9 Results viewer

Table 10 Objective Cell
Objective Cell (Min)

Cell	Name	Original Value	Final Value
\$C\$22	Total Cost :	0	36082801.4

- 1) What is the minimum total cost for the entire 6 months?
Rs. 3,60,82,801.40
- 2) Do employees need to work on Overtime?
NO
- 3) Does the industry need to hire new employees? If so, when? If not, how much employees need to be laid off?
Employees need not to be hired and the actual number of employees required to meet the demand is 111.
Number of employees to be laid off = 650-111 = 539
- 4) What would be the level of inventory, stock out at the end of each month in the planning horizon of 6 months?
- 5)

Table 11 Aggregate Planning Results

Period	H	L	W	O
	Hired	Laid off	Workforce	Overtime
0	0	0	650	0
1	0	539.1538	110.8462036	0
2	0	0	110.8462036	0

3	0	0	110.8462036	0
4	0	0	110.8462036	0
5	0	0	110.8462036	0
6	0	0	110.8462036	0

I	S	P	
Inventory	Stockout	Production	Demand
0	0	0	
1570.833333	0	8485.83333	6915
2106.666667	0	8485.83333	7950
2642.5	0	8485.83333	7950
2833.333333	0	8485.83333	8295
1984.166667	0	8485.83333	9335
1135	0	8485.83333	9335

11. Results and Discussion

In the order cope with the rapidly developing textile industries in India it is absolutely necessary that the company keeps up with the modern technology, apart from enhancing its technical capabilities the industry must also focus on improving its resource utilisation, this is important both from an economic and sustainability stand point. Inventory management plays a crucial role in a textile industry since it has a great influence on the supply chain surplus value[17]. In this project the studies conducted on the raw material inventory shows that theoretically, using a quantitative approach for the inventory is better than the previously used quantitative approach. This is seen by the fact that the previously adopted model produces wastage of 3100kg for six months and using the suggested method this could be theoretically reduced.

The process time study and the aggregate planning model suggests that the existing resources can be better utilised. The labour forces can be re-distributed within the industry to avoid idle time[17].

12. Conclusion

Thus in this project study the working of a textile fabric industry are studied with primary focus on raw material inventory. The following are the activities that were carried out, Study of the industrial operations and processes. Evaluation and analysis of current inventory model, forecasting the price of raw materials for the next cycle period, process timing and utilisation evaluation, developing an inventory model based upon requirements[17]. Aggregate planning for the 80s yarn section.

The above activities were carried out with an objective to improve the supply chain efficiency and supply chain surplus for the industry. The future scope for the project can be to further improve the processes using techniques like total productivity improvement, lean implementation, etc. The inventory model can be made to have a high responsiveness without compromising cost by further leveraging the existing vertical integration with its own raw material supplier.

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