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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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**FINDINGS** 

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 Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

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## IMPACT OF INTERNET USAGE RISKINESS, ATTITUDE TOWARDS WEBSITE SAFETY, ONLINE SHOPPING CONVENIENCE ON ONLINE PURCHASE INTENTION

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The last decade has witnessed a phenomenal growth in online sales across the globe. This paper studies the impact of risk associated with internet usage, attitude towards the safety features of a website and convenience linked to shopping online and how the three together impact online purchase intention. Multiple regression was used to carry out the study. The Cronbach's alpha and other tools for checking the reliability and validity of the data were duly applied and the values were found to be satisfactory. It is found out the attitude towards the website safety has the highest impact on online purchase intention followed by convenience of shopping online. It also emerges that risk associated with using internet is negatively linked to online purchase intention. It is suggested that the safety features of online stores should be highlighted and the risk associated with using the internet should be mitigated. The online stores should emphasize on the convenience of navigating and placing orders on the online stores.

#### **KEYWORDS**

online purchase intention, convenience, website safety, internet usage

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

he recent Internet development has altered the commercial models of retail stores and the factors responsible for this are low costs in setting up these retail shops. The low costs are considered responsible for setting up of online shops which have turned into an important channel for startup companies or retail shops to operate. There is no doubt that the e-tailing is progressing swiftly and population of online shoppers is growing but it is "still perceived immature due to risks" (Chi and Li, 2008) and as per Horrigan study (2008) fifty-eight per cent internet users pronounce it as frustrating, confusing, and an overwhelming activity. By tradition, numerous researchers recognize that perceived risks impact purchasing behaviour (Peter and Tarpey, 1975) and as compared with conventional or long established shopping, online purchase is alleged to be extra risky and proves to be an impediment for consumer impetus for online purchase (Nenonen, 2006). Perceived risk allied with attitude towards website safety and uncertainty online prove to be the key inhibitor of online shopping (Liang and Huang, 1998).

#### 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### 2.1 INTERNET USAGE RISKINESS AND ONLINE PURCHASE INTENTION

Mathew and Mishra study (2014) also established that the Indian online users have perceived risks related to security of credit card information, confidentiality of personal information and trust in e-tailers. Giving of personal information like credit card numbers make online buyers feel uncertain about online purchasing. There are also risks whether they will receive the products akin to the ones they have placed orders as they have seen the portrayal and image of products on the website of the seller only. In other words, absence of pre-purchase inspection of the product quality influences purchase intention which is considered to be a high level of risk (Festervand, Snyder, Tsalikis, 1986). Kanungo and Jain (January 2004) study also found that the absence of physical interface between buyer and the product "induces an element of uncertainty in the mind of consumer about expected performance of the purchased product". There is also the risk of damage to the product during transportation. It needs to be pointed out here that the false online evaluations, used to excite the probable buyer, is another risk in online buying.

A number of studies consider security and privacy concerns as major barriers to e-tailing. Matic and Vojvodic (2014) find that lack of trust can "discourage online consumers from online retailing, and can influence purchase intention". The research (ibid) indicates that the "insecurity of the online environment is evident and it influences consumers' attitudes and intentions towards online purchasing". Shin et al. (2001) lay emphasis on those consumers' attitudes towards online shopping which affect consumers' intention to use internet for purchasing. Li, Kim and Park (2007) study finds that "greater consumer trust motivates customers generate more intention to purchase in the internet shopping malls". Chen and Barnes (2007) find that trust and understanding of online buying have a positive effect on purchase intention. The results of Hajiha, Ghaffari and Gholamali study (2010) confirm that purchase intention is impacted by perceived risk, and "as the perceived risk of the customers increases, their internet purchase intention decreases". It is so because perceived risk generates "inhibiting aspects of consumers' eagerness to participate in online shopping" (Faqih, 2013) because it increases instability and "vulnerabilities of online shopping" (ibid).

#### 2.2 ATTITUDE TOWARDS WEBSITE SAFETY AND ONLINE PURCHASE INTENTION

Web is the principal interface with customers by firms engaged in e-tailing. Thus, safety of website is a vital attainment element for e-tailing firms. Safety perception is outlined as "the degree to which a person believes that the online vendor or website is secure" (Meskaran, Ismail and Shanmugam, 2013). For the purpose of

safety in online selling, for a buyer, would also include consistency from the retailer to deliver goods on time as described, an ability to return goods and receive a refund if the product is faulty or misleading and a "mission statement that sets out the retailer's privacy and security policy" (Galeziewska, September 2014). It needs to be understood that the security has the most important impact on a person's intention and outlook to shopping through the Internet (Kim and Shim, 2002). It may also be mentioned here that the success of Internet shopping is governed in part whether consumers trust sellers and products they cannot see or touch (Mathew and Lee, 2001). The findings of Mathew and Lee (ibid) point to the fact that merchant uprightness is most important positive basis of the trust of consumer in Internet shopping.

Shergill and Chen (2005) find in their study that online conduct is influenced by website security / privacy as identified by online buyers among other things like website design, website trustworthiness / fulfilment, website customer service. It is a prerequisite for the internet sellers, who usually make use of websites, to satisfy buyers of their proficiency in Internet shopping business. It is essential for sellers to observe the value which the buyers treasure as adequate. In the Shergill and Chen study (2005), it is found that the buyer rated reliability / fulfilment factor had the highest mean score. "This implied that they were more satisfied with the honesty attributes of E-tailers" (ibid).

Experience a consumer gets by using the website helps him form a judgement about the company which has possession of the website and also form a belief whether the company gives the impression of being professional and trustworthy (Tan and Theon, 2001). Trust is crucial for a consumer to begin transacting with an online retailer (Yoon, 2002) because it is the trust in the vendor / website's competence which encouragingly shapes the intention to get information and the purchase intention (Lu et al., 2010). The analysis of Matic and Vojvodic (2014) study concludes that the insecurity of the online environment has an effect on consumers' online purchase decision. It is so because safety of website is one of the "determinants of consumer trust in Internet shopping" (Cheung and Lee, 2003).

As for as the consequences of assessments of online retailer's ethical conduct on consumer purchase and revisit intentions, Limbu et al study (2012) found that the perceived ethics of an Internet retailer's website ominously affected consumers' trust and attitudes to the retailer's website that eventually had positive impacts on purchase and revisit intentions.

A safe website is likely to have a physical address or phone number, have a return policy, prices are not very low and it accepts credit cards.

#### 2.3 SHOPPING CONVENIENCE AND ONLINE PURCHASE INTENTION

The best apparent gain and crucial element of online shopping is convenience. It is convenient because a consumer can shop when it is convenient for him because the orders are accepted 24 hours a day, the consumer has the facility of ordering products from around the world and it is comfortable to compare prices and products. Online shopping is considered to be convenient because it is stress free to hunt for information as compared with brick and mortar retail shops. The results of the study by Rajamma, Paswan and Hossain (2009) indicate that the perceived inconvenience is the most important forecaster of shopping cart abandonment. The consumers who prefer to shop from home are prepared to purchase without touching the products as they fancy convenience (Gillet, 1970). Darian (1987) remarks that online shopping contains numerous doles in terms of convenience such as less time guzzling, flexibility, very less physical effort et cetera. Robinson, Riley, Rettie and Wilsonz (2007) consider a major motivation for online purchasing is convenience in terms of shopping at any time and having large number of items delivered at door step.

Traditionally, convenience was taken to indicate providing convenient service to buyers consisting of time savings and minimization of efforts (Etgar, 1978, Kotler and Zaltman, 1971). Effort saving has concern with minimization of cognitive, physical and emotional activities that customers must bear to purchase goods and services (Berry et al., 2002). The literature on marketing gives emphasis to the importance of desire for convenience and value of time (Jiang, Yang and Jun, 2013). Jiang et al. (ibid) in their study find that convenience of online shopping comprises of access convenience, search convenience, evaluation convenience, transaction convenience and possession / post purchase convenience. Of these conveniences, search convenience is the most important and for this it is important to have user friendly websites, simple and accommodating payment procedures and the web sellers should monitor their delivery process.

Swaminathan et al. (1999) study finds that convenience is the reason for shoppers to buy online. Convenience consists of price comparison, saving of time, availability of product information et cetera.

#### 3. NEED OF THE STUDY

A review of literature has revealed that the combined effect of the three factors chosen has not been studied before. Also, the chosen factors have not been studied in the context of Punjab, India. The study looked to plug the gap in the literature.

#### 4. HYPOTHESIS

H1a: Risk associated with internet use has significant effect on online purchase intention.

H1b: Attitude towards website safety has significant effect on online purchase intention.

H1c: Convenience of shopping online has significant effect on online purchase intention.

The study looks to study the combined effect of the three factors on online purchase intention.

#### 5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 5.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

Descriptive research was considered appropriate as the statement of the problem was well defined, hypothesis framed were specific and the type of information required was clear (Malhotra, 2011).

#### 5.2 OUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

The questionnaire was divided in three parts. The first part contained purpose of research and instructions for responses, the second part contained scaled response questions and third part contained the demographic profile of the respondents.

The items were taken from various sources of the literature. Standardized statements were taken for the purpose of carrying out the research. A five point Likert scale with points ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5) was used for collecting the responses for the dependent and independent variables. Five-point rating scales maybe preferred as increments with regard to reliability were found to be insignificant (Choudhury, 2014).

#### 5.3 SAMPLING

All the respondents had experience of online shopping, i.e. they had done online shopping at least once. Convenience sampling, which is a non-probability sampling method was used for collecting data from the state of Punjab and the city of Panchkula. The sample size for analysis was 580.

The questionnaires were self-administered. A total of 600 questionnaires were distributed out of which 7 questionnaires were not returned. 13 respondents lacked the willingness to respond and submitted incomplete responses. These were removed from the sample. The resultant questionnaires were analyzed using SPSS version 21.

#### **5.4 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

The males and females accounted for 45 % and 55 % of the respondents respectively. Majority of the respondents (70%) belonged to Punjab.72% of the respondents were less than 35 years of age, 53 % were post graduates, 56 % were unmarried and 68 % belonged to families earning up to eight lac rupees a year.43 % of the respondents were not working.

#### **5.5 RELIABILITY TEST**

All the constructs were tested for the consistency with the help of Cronbach's alpha and the score for Internet Usage Riskiness was 0.876, Attitude towards Website (Safety) was 0.781, Online Shopping Motivation (Convenience) was 0.889 and Purchase Intention at Website was 0.761. The measurement scales were found to be consistent.

#### **5.6 VALIDITY TEST**

Construct validity was used for measuring the validity and factor analysis was used to measure the construct validity. The factor analysis scores were appropriate because the value of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) was 0.898 and the statistical test for the Bartlett test of sphericity was significant (p=0.00, d.f=276) for all the

correlations within a correlation matrix. The extraction method used was Principal Component Analysis and the rotation method used was Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. The rotation converged in five iterations. The Eigen values for all three constructs showed a score more than 1, ranging from 5.284 (Internet Shopping Motivation-Convenience) to 2.107 (Attitude towards the Website-Safety). The factors loadings for all items within a construct were above 0.50, so the conditions for convergent validity were satisfied. All items were allocated according to the different constructs and there was no overlap. The items supported the respective constructs meeting the condition of discriminant validity.

#### 6. FINDINGS

All six conditions before the application of multiple regression were addressed. The normality assumption was met because the distributions of residuals was unimodal and symmetric. The scatter plot showed the residuals to be randomly scattered, thus meeting the condition of linearity and free from heteroscedacity. The condition of independence of error term was met because the value of Durbin-Watson stood at 1.843. The VIF values and tolerance statistics were below 10 and above 0.2 respectively, meaning data did not suffer from multicollinearity. The P-P plot analysis showed that the data was free from outlier and influential observations because the normal probability plot was seen to be a straight line. The outputs of multiple regression are given in Table 1.1.

**TABLE 1.1: COEFFICIENTS OF OUTPUT** 

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
		В	Std. Error	Beta			Toleranc e	VIF
	(Constant)	1.258	.247		5.102	.000		
1	Mean Int Shop Mot Convenience	.309	.047	.245	6.648	.000	.971	1.030
	Mean_Atti_Website_S afety	.367	.038	.374	9.707	.000	.886	1.129
	Mean Int Usage Riski ness	108	.043	}.099	-2.547	.011	.879	1.137

The p value for Internet Usage Riskiness (p=0.011) is less than alpha value of 0.05.

Based on the SPSS output, the following equation was formulated:

Online Purchase Intention= 1.258 + 0.367 (Attitude Toward's Website-Safety) + 0.309 (Internet Shopping Motivation-Convenience) -0.108 (Internet Usage Riskiness) The values of unstandardized beta coefficients show that attitude towards website safety has the highest effect on explaining online purchase intention. Internet Usage Riskiness has the least effect has the least effect on explaining online purchase intention.

The R2 value is.242 which means that the explained variance is 24.2 %.It means that the explained variance is nearly 24 %.In the realm of social science research an explained variance of 24 % is considered to be healthy.

TABLE 1.2: DEPICTION OF R<sup>2</sup> VALUE

R	Adjusted	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson	
Square	R		R Square	F	df1	df2	Sig. F	
	Square		Change	Change			Change	
.242	.238	.88074	.242	61.248	3	575	.000	1.843

#### 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the present era of exponential growth and competitive landscape of online shopping, it is imperative that managers of online shopping sites take serious note of the factors which shape online shopping intentions. Managers need to design safety mechanisms into the websites to meet the expectations of the online shoppers. The shopping websites should have user friendly features. The process for navigating the website, placing the order and payment facilities should be easy and time efficient. Efforts should be directed towards educating the consumers about online frauds. Strategies should be formulated so that users feel more comfortable sharing personal and financial information online. The prospect of co-creation of online shopping websites should be given due consideration.

#### 8. CONCLUSION

The study has made valuable contributions to the field of management research as the combined effect of three factors on online purchase intention has been studied. It has emerged that the three factors have a significant effect on online purchase intention. The value of R<sup>2</sup> is around 25% which means that around 25% of the variance is explained by the proposed model. Further review should be carried out in future to identify other factors which may influence online purchase intention.

#### 9. LIMITATIONS

The study while offering a fresh perspective into the realm of online purchase intention, does suffer from some limitations. The first major shortcoming is that the demographic variables and their effect on online purchase intention has not been explored. The limitations inherent to small sample sizes are found in the research. It is advised to increase the sample size for more generalized results. The use of probability sampling techniques needs to be explored to gain more meaningful insights into the research problem. Another dimension which needs to be addressed is the sampling area. The present study is restricted to Punjab and Panchkula. It would be beneficial if more states are included in the study. The sample was composed mostly of younger people which is another limitation of the research.

The p value for Attitude towards Website Safety (p=0.000) is less than alpha value of 0.05.

The p value for Online Shopping Motivation (Convenience) (p=0.000) is less than alpha value of 0.05.

#### 10. SCOPE OF FUTURE RESEARCH

Future studies need to consider the role of demographic variables on the independent variables in order to gain a comprehensive insight on the factors which shape the online purchase intentions. A larger sampling area needs to be considered so that findings are more generalized. The research should be carried out on people in the older age groups. This would be helpful in understanding the issues faced by the older people while shopping online

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