INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMPUTER APPLICATION & MANAGEMENT



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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

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NEUROMARKETING: INNOVATIVE FOCUS ON THE FEMALE BUYING BRAIN

DEEPA KEDAR RELE ASST. PROFESSOR PARLE TILAK VIDYALAYA ASSOCIATION`S INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT MUMBAI

ABSTRACT

Marketing has been evolving in all its forms. In its present scope, it has metamorphosed from barter system, to production concept, to product concept & so on. New discoveries in neuroscience are revolutionizing twenty-first century life and marketing is no exception. Neuromarketing can be considered as another milestone, which is still evolving. Neuromarketing is a dynamic package of medical knowledge, technology & marketing. It can be a powerful tool in market research; where advertising is becoming more scientifically advanced. The human brain hasn't changed much in last 1, 00,000 years. But the role of women has changed dramatically. From the right to vote and own property to the right to govern your own reproduction, women have stepped into a new role. In today's situation there are more women than men at work place. In many cases women are the sole bread winners and the decision makers for the products they buy. Thus women worldwide have greater spending power. Covering everything from product development to packaging to point-of-sale marketing neuromarketing is the guide to access today's newest business frontier: human brain. The paper attempts to throw light on the growing perspective of Neuromarketing in & around. The paper will bring forward the messaging elements the female brain loves. It will try to highlight the difference between a female brain and mummy brain. It is interesting to know that all mummies have female brain but not all females have mummy brains. This is reflected in their spending power as well as pattern. It will also focus why and how maternity enhances certain brain functions. Through various applications of neuromarketing study the paper will attempt to show what specific consumer behavior and prefences mummy brains share.

KEYWORDS

Advertising, Brain Mapping, Market Research, Mummy Brain, Neuromarketing.

INTRODUCTION



bjective of all marketing communication is to induce or enhance purchase. Advertising is one of the major components of promotional mix and that of marketing communications. Every year more than 5 lakh million dollars are invested in advertising campaigns worldwide. The total media spent worldwide is increasing by 6.5% (average) every year.

TABLE: 1					
Major Media (newspapers, magzines, television, radio, cinema, outdoor, internet)					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
North America	183,520	188,415	194,990	200,271	207,570
Western Europe	113,513	119,976	124,420	129,770	135, <mark>78</mark> 1
Asia Pacific	9 <mark>4,71</mark> 9	102,807	111,534	119,001	127,916
Central & Eastern Europe	2 <mark>5,7</mark> 99	31,563	37,041	42,628	48,424
Latin America	2 <mark>2,</mark> 638	26,329	30,924	35,130	38,9 <mark>20</mark>
Africa/M.East	1 <mark>3,</mark> 406	16,490	18,606	21,871	25,9 <mark>38</mark>
World	453,595	485,580	517,515	548,671	584,550

Source: ZenithOptimedia

(US \$ million, current prices; Currency conversion at 2007 average rates) The following table highlights the Indian scenario

TABLE: 2				
Spends in Crores				
Year	τv	Press	Radio	Total
2008	9309	14359	924	24593
2009	11077	15119	1108	27304
2010	13369	16138	1431	30938
Until Jul 2011	9592	9406	854	19852
This does not include Cinema ,Digital and OOH				

Marketing researchers have started questioning the premise that a target consumer would reflect 'what he/she really thinks' in response to a question in a questionnaire. If the consumer does not reflect his/her actual feelings to a marketing researcher, how can we assume that the results arrived at after such a research would be reliable.

We depend on the principle of marketing research to find out consumer preferences, attitudes, likes and dislikes. We analyze consumer responses and reach certain conclusions. On this basis, marketing and promotional mix is decided. However research has revealed that consumers do not necessarily provide the real answer to researcher. At times they do not even know as to what is that they really think about a given question.

Researchers all over the world are trying to find answers to questions on the unfathomable behavior of the target consumers in the fields other than those of consumer behavior, marketing and advertising.

Remember the pre-poll survey where the results declared that some political party would come to power at centre and actually the opposite happened. The survey was conducted by one of the best research organizations. Sometimes the consumers themselves do not know their real feelings about a given situation. They would act in a particular manner at the spur of the moment. It may also happen that, they know their actual feelings but do not intend the marketing researcher to know the same. This brings us to neuro-marketing. The field has unprecedented potential of showing the path to those managing brands, marketing communication.

NEUROMARKETING-WHERE BRAIN SCIENCE AND MARKETING MEET

In very simple terms, Neuromarketing is medical knowledge, technology and marketing. Neuromarketing is a new field of marketing that studies the consumer's response to marketing stimuli. Neuromarketing is the application of neuroscience to marketing. Neuromarketing includes the direct use of brain imaging, scanning, or other brain activity measurement technology to measure a subject's response to specific products, packaging, advertising, or other marketing elements. In some cases, the brain responses measured by these techniques may not be consciously perceived by the subject; hence, this data may be more revealing than self-reporting on surveys, in focus groups, etc.

This concept was developed by psychologists at Harvard University in 1990. The word Neuromarketing was coined by Ale Smidts in 2002. It is an emerging branch of neuro science in which researchers use medical technology to determine consumer reactions to particular brands, slogans and advertisements. The first ever

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-By Charlie Rose

Neuromarketing conference was held in 2004 at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. The base of Neuromarketing is "meme". Meme is a unit of information stored in the brain. These units are effective influencing human who is making choices and decisions within 2.6 seconds. If mem is chosen properly we remember the good, joke or song and would share it. Memes stay in our memory and are affected by marketers. Examples of memes-aroma of fresh bread, biscuits, sweets, characters in fairy tales, stories of grandmother.

Thus, Neuromarketing is a promising and emerging field with tremendous potential for application in the functional areas of marketing, brand management and advertising. It has emerged after bringing together applicable concepts from the field of neural-science, psychology, human neuro-physiology and even neuro-chemistry.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUYING BRAIN

"Understanding the human mind in biological terms has emerged as the central challenge of science in the twenty-first century."

-By Dr. Eric Kandel, Neuroscientist and winner of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine Millions of people in our global economy have jobs that depend on communicating with and persuading the human brain. So it is vital for us to understand how the human brain really works, what is attractive to it, how it decides what it likes or dislikes or how they decide to buy or not buy the infinite variety of products and services.

"We have learned more about the brain in the last five years than in all human history combined".

The basic lesson is that human brains process much of their sensory input subconsciously. Most of the works our brains are doing day and night are below our personal consciousness. Our senses are taking in about 11 million bits of information every second. Most of that comes through our eyes but all other senses are contributing-hearing, touch, smell, taste. Research has shown that our conscious brain can process at best 40 bits of information per second. All the other is processed subconsciously. That is why our brain appears to be a mystery.

This has really widened the scope of Neuromarketing. The concepts of Neuromarketing provide a real competitive advantage in a crowded and cluttered market. The languages of consumers change from country to country and culture to culture, however the language of human brain is the same i.e. universal. Thus, Neuromarketing has greatly affected products, brands, packaging, and advertising as well.

STRUCTURE OF HUMAN BRAIN

Human brain is made up of billions of cells. These cells are called neurons. The neurons can communicate with one another through small junctions. These junctions are called synapses. When a neuron is active, it sends an electrical impulse to its own terminal or end. The impulse generates a sequence of physicchemical events leading to the release of a chemical molecule. This chemical molecule is called a neurotransmitter and serves as a messenger. This neurotransmitter forms a bridge between the two neurons and the impulse gets transferred. Once a neuron is activated it is described as 'a neuron has fired'. A single neuron connects with 600 to 1500 other neurons. Neurons form circuits, circuits form networks, networks form systems, systems form super systems and the super systems are equivalent to galaxies.

"Neurons are the basic working units of the brain and the central nervous system, designed to transmit information to other nerve, muscle or gland cells."

By Dr. A. K. Pradeep Founder and CEO, Neurofocus Inc.

Our brain is a part of central nervous system which has following parts

The table below shows the importance of different parts of brain to marketing and advertising managers

TABLE: 3					
Area of Brain	Function	Importance			
Spinal cord	Sending message from nerves to different parts of the body				
Medulla oblongata	Respiration, controls blood pressure, senses of taste and hearing	1			
Pons	Controls movement, respiration and sleep				
Cerebellum Maintains postures, controls head and eye movements, muscle movements, language as well as cognitive functions					
Midbrain	Co-ordination of visual and auditory reflexes				
Thalamus	Taste,smell,touch				
Hypothalamus Eating, drinking, growth, motivation		3			
VMFL(Ventro-medical Frontal Lobe)	Decision-making	4			
Hippocampus	Memory	4			
Source:	Neuromarketing a Peep into Customer's minds by J.K. Sharma, Deepali Singh, K.K.Deepak, D.P.Agarwal				

Value range 0 to 5

THE SHE FACTOR

Till date only 17% of medical research was conducted on women. The main hindrance was the body cycle each month which is never static. As a result, no concrete baseline can be established. But this was the scenario before the Right for Inclusion of Women in Clinical Research was passed in 1995. Now the female brain is the prime focus for study.

The marketers can now target those five magic days to market their products or services that make women more attractive. New research shows that woman's purchase behavior is unconsciously influenced by their hormones. Therefore, women at peak fertility unconsciously choose products that enhance appearance in order to outdo the attractive rival women. This research has practical implications for marketers as for about 5 to 6 days every month normally ovulating women may likely purchase clothing, shoes, accessories, health supplements, diet programmes etc. This has opened a new avenue in Neuromarketing- doing a blood draw along with brain scans & biometrics to evaluate the hormonal levels of female subjects.

WHY SHE

Women in India have several layers to them. Marketers cannot afford to look at them as 'One Mass' due to their various life cycle stages, distinct life styles as well as consumption psyche. They play a significant role not only in consumption but in household buying decision-making as in India three-fourth of all families are nuclear.

Juxt Indian Women Study 2010 reveals following facts:

- There are only 40 million working women in India (i.e. 9% of all women).148 million are students while 260 million are housewives
- 72% of working women are working mothers
- Housewife mothers is the largest occupational-marital segment among women (50%)
- Only 1 woman in 10 works in corporate world. Southern region contributes the highest proportion of working women

TABLE: 4						
Segment	Description	% of Indian women population	No. in millions			
Women students	Unmarried & studying	33	148.5			
Working maidens	Unmarried & working	2	7.2			
Housewives	Married & not working	8	34.2			
Housewife mothers	Married with children & not working	50	225.4			
Working wives	Married & working	1	4.3			
Working mothers	Married with children & working	6	28.6			
Total		100	448.2			

TADLE A

Source: Juxt Indian Women 2010 Study

A PEEP INTO THE SHE BRAIN

The female brain is fundamentally different from the male brain. She has four times more neurons connecting the right & the left brain. She processes information through both rational & emotional filters unlike men who use either one side or other to process the information. Therefore while constructing messages to her marketers need to include some emotional component. This balances of two hemispheres males the female brain multitasker of all the time. It is easy and natural for the female brain to move from home to work, from shopping to signing of contract and even combine all the activities. Men tend to focus on one activity with one hemisphere at a time. The female brain is capable of more uneasiness and to do more planning than the male brain. She will always be interested in finding the best deal for her time, money and effort. It may happen that the best deal is not sufficient as she is willing to pay more if your product or service satisfies her requirements as well as of her family. Thus the goal of a male brain is autonomy while that of female brain is community. Following are some interesting facts about the female brain helpful for marketers by *Louann Brizendine author of The Female Brain*:

- The female brain is smaller than the male brain by about 9% i.e. the brain matter is more tightly packed in the female brain
- Women have about 11 % more neurons in the language centers of the brain
- A woman has slightly smaller amygdala (controls sex & aggression). Therefore, sex is both emotional as well as physical for women
- Women have slightly larger prefrontal cortexes than men which allows them to control emotions during peak times of anxiety

TIPS FOR MARKETERS

- The advertisements targeted towards female consumers must pay attention to facial expressions as well as tone of voice not just the text matter
- Social connections are vital for female consumers as a result shared stories are more appealing
- Avoid challenging the female consumers with messages like,"Don't wait" or "Call now"
- Since both her hemispheres are connected, make sure that the message in the advertisement is based on some positive emotion than statistics or numbers

THE HANDS THAT ROCK THE CRADLE RULE THE WORLD

Birth of a child is a powerful catalyst for the brain changes. Brain changes begin from pregnancy. Mothers are famous for their superior instincts and intuition skills. The enhanced prefrontal cortex gives her the ability to control emotions. Human mothers also build networks to support as well as bond with their babies. Mothers excel at what someone else is thinking. Just like human GPS (Global Positioning System) mommy brain has increased vigilance on all aspects i.e. safety and stability of her young one. Birth of a baby is rebirth of her too. Therefore, it is rightly said that all mommies have female brain but not all females have mommy brain.

TIPS FOR MARKETERS

- Show activities that the mother would like to engage with her baby
- The more she feels understood the more likely she will give attention or rely on the brand
- One negative view of your product, its promotion, packing, environment can easily spread amongst millions of mommies as they are socially very well connected
- Target the mommy brain from a new perspective i.e. emphasize safety in a positive emotional context and not through fear

SUCCESS STORIES OF THE APPLICATIONS OF NEUROMARKETING

FRITO-LAY

Women snack more than men but research showed that they did not prefer Frito-lay snacks. The organization conducted an extensive research campaign which brought forward the following results:

- Women snack only 14% of the time on salty foods
- 24% of the time on sweet food
- Other 61% includes drinks, fruits and vegetables

Later the organization decided to make use of various Neuromarketing techniques for adjusting their marketing strategy. The research suggested that communication centre in a woman's brain is more developed due to which they process advertisements with more complexity and more pieces of information. She is especially interested in the guilt factor. Almost 100 females were asked to keep a log of their lives for about two weeks. The outcome of this exercise was that women feel guilty about a lot of things in life.

- The following was the action plan of Frito-lay after applying Neuromarketing techniques:
- They focused on their ad campaign as "guilt- free" snack. The organization spread message that;"Snacking should make you feel good, not guilty."
- They toned down their packing and showed healthy ingredients like 0% fat, fibre etc
- After acquiring SmartFood it introduced new line of sweet, low calorie popcorn with flavors like canberry-almond. The packing highlighted nutritional ingredients like: Calcium, wheat, almond, fiber.
- Firto-lay started with the campaign "Only in a Womans World". The campaign has four cartoon women whose names are Anna, Cheryl, Maya, Nikki each
 possessing a distinct personality. These women are termed as fabulous, funny, and fearlessly female.
- Frito-lay came up with TV, print, online and webisodes at www.AWomansworld.com
- Frito-lay came up with following variants for guilt-free women:
- Baked Lays-"Eating better can be yummy."
- These are naturally baked with 65% less fat than regular potato chips. Baked Lays are light-tasting, crispy and full of flavors.
- Smartfood Popcorn clusters-"Getting your fiber can be delicious"

Popcorn clusters with excellent source of calcium, 5gms of fiber and no artificial colors or preservatives. Available in mouth watering flavors like: canberry almond, honey multigrain and chocolate cookie caramel pecan.

- 100 Calorie sun Chips-"Treat you to portion control".
- A 12 Gms of whole grain snack in interesting flavours like: harvest cheddar, white cheddar, asteroids.

Flat Earth-"We snuck some veggies in your crisps."

Half a serving of real vegetables in every ounce of crisps which are naturally baked with excellent source of vitamin A & C.Available in flavors like: tangy tomato, garlic & herb, spicy salsa.

FUTURE OF NEUROMARKETING

There is no element of doubt that Neuromarketing will enable advertisers to be very specific in providing products that the consumers really want. The more senses you trigger about your products and service you can influence the buying behavior. Still Neuromarketing is in ones infancy and not free from critics as well as issues.

NeuroFocus, Inc. is an American multinational Neuromarketing company with headquarter in Berkeley. NeuroFocus combines neuroscience research with consulting and marketing practices. NeuroFocus is the global market leader in neurological testing. In India too they have set up an office in Chennai. First annual Neuromarketing awards were announced by media brands IPG Media Lab and Affectiva at Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival in June 2011.

Inspite of all these issues Neuromarketing is here to stay. All advertising campaigns are not commercial as many focus on changing the behavior of the people. For example to convince people not to smoke, don't drink and drive or talk on a cell phone while driving.

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