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IMPACT OF COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION ON CONSUMER BUYING DECISION: ELECTRONICS GOODS

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ABSTRACT

This paper summarises the theoretical and descriptive research on how the country of production has an impact on the buying decision of the people in respect to electronic industry of India. A wide array of approaches has been used to study the actual impact. The questionnaire method or rather the survey method has been used to collect the sample data from consumers to study the actual impact. The tools of SPSS has been used and applied to give us results, which have been further analysed and interpreted to come to a proper conclusion. Thus, the evidence suggests that in certain cases where male gender is involved country of production of the product has played a significant role in determining their buying behaviour. On the contrary in case where females are involved in the buying decision country of production hardly plays any significant role.

KEYWORDS

country of production, consumers buying behaviour, brand image, label information.

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INTRODUCTION

In the recent years we have seen how the electronics industry of India has drastically grown to become one of the biggest industry of the country. India has always been a key production player of various electrical goods among giants like China and japan. Production is a systematic process which begins from procuring of raw materials till the manufacturing of the end product (final product). Thus it follows a series of steps which one needs to follow to utilise its resources efficiently. The electronics industry of India roughly contributes around 20-25% towards the Indian GDP thus making it one of the most prominent industry of India. It has also been forecasted that the electronics industry will grow and contribute over \$1 trillion in the upcoming 5-7 years. Thus the country of production also plays a significant role in determining the buying decision of consumers till some extent. For e.g. a person may not prefer lights made in China but rather prefer lights that are made in India. Thus from this small example we see that Country of Production/ Country of Origin of the product plays a role in the buying behaviour of the consumer.

Imports of electronics have highly increased over the years with new and newer technology being developed every next moment. We see how technology has grown over the years and with the growth of technology came in new and innovative electronic products which can do wonders. Currently we import most of our electronics from China in fact most of the electronic products are either made or assembled in China. The prime reason for this is nothing but the availability of extremely cheap labour in China. Though India also has various large giants of electronic products like Surya, Micromax, etc.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To study the buying behaviour of consumers
- 2. To find the amount of impact 'Producing Country' has on buying decisions
- 3. To analyse and make report regarding whether one should outsource their electronic product manufacturing or do it in house

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(DavideCastellani, 2004) DavideCastellani and AntonelloZanfei in their article titled "Choosing international linkage strategies in the electronics industry: the role of multinational experience" examines about the different aspects of multinational experience influence the decision of strategies or planning based on international linkage. Various aspects such as efficiency and cost were taken into consideration by the authors to conduct the tests to select a viable option in terms of

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joint ventures and alliances in electronic industry. The study showed that the country specific experience shows positive impact and hence increasing the profitability, whereas strategic alliances have a positive impact due the heterogeneity among the various factors.

(Naveen Amblee, 2011) Naveen Amblee and Tung Bui in their study titled "Harnessing the Influence of Social Proof in Online Shopping: The Effect of Electronic Word of Mouth on Sales of Digital Microproducts" talks about the gaining importance of e-commerce and various technologies in today's market. These technologies help in spreading eMOW(electronic word of mouth) among a community of likeminded people who share common interest and taste. The author used amazon shorts e-book as a market to conduct their study. The study suggested that eMOW is a major factor which is involved in a buying decision or behavior of the consumers since they are the primary source of information on which the consumer reacts and creates a reputation of a particular product.

(Terpstra) C. Min Han and Vern Terpstra in their study titled "COUNTRY-OF-ORIGINEFFECTSFOR UNI-NATIONAL AND BI-NATIONAL PRODUCTS" examines that if there is any effect of factors such as country of origin and the name of the brand for the process of customer evaluation of various products, whether uni-national or bi-national. The study was done by using the primary data involving interviews taken by the authors within a regional quota sample. The study found that the country of origin holds a special attribute when it comes to product evaluation by the customers.

(Martin S. Roth, 1992) Martin S. Roth and Jean B. Romeo in their journal titled "Matching Product Catgeory and Country Image Perceptions: A Framework for Managing Country-of-Origin Effects" examines the perception of consumers towards products manufactured in a particular country. The study also take into consideration of the product category and tries to create a suitable framework which helps them in finding result using both the factors while coming to a specific conclusion. The author used data from the customers in Mexico, Ireland and United States and reveals that product-country match is a vital factor for the customer decision.

(Sung-Tai Hong, 1989) Sung-Tai Hong and Robert S. WyerJr in their study titled "Effects of Country-of-Origin and Product-Attribute Information on Product Evaluation: An Information Processing Perspective" raised concerns about the underlying impact of country of origin and special information for the product selection by the customers. The study showed that the country of origin had a direct impact or influence on the product selection; also it stimulates the individuals to examine the other vital product attribute. Thus it is evident from the study that the use of factors such as country of origin acts as a basis of judgment and influence the decision of a customer.

(Todd, 2015) Sirrka L. Jarvenpaa& Peter A. Todd in their study titled "Consumer Reactions to Electronic Shopping on the World Wide Web" examines the impact of World Wide Web on the shopping behavior of consumers. The study involves reports on factors that are necessary for the selection of any product in the electronic shopping malls. The study was done by the author using an open ended survey with a sample size of 220 customers in relation to various aspects such as shopping experience, product perceptions, perceived risks which are vital factors for any shopper. The result of the study suggested that the factors which were discussed earlier have a significant impact on the buying behavior of consumers and therefore every retailer and producer should keep them in mind while making a decision.

(NES, 1982) WARREN J. BILKE and ERIK NES in their study titled "COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN EFFECTS ON PRODUCT EVALUATIONS" reviews various works which talks about the impact of the country of production on the mind of any potential buyers of a particular product. This issue is a significant topic for the various countries which are developing in nature and have limited resources for the production of various products and are seeking to increase their export and are identifying various potential markets in different countries. The authors used primary data as a source of study involving survey from a limited sample size. The study revealed that country of production indeed act as a vital factor for creating a biasness in the mind of the buyer but however the impact can be compensated with the help of additional expenditure or lowering prices.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The primary method used in this study is descriptive research. The data of this study was based on primary data, which is collected through questionnaires. Similarly secondary data is also been used to obtain a little help through different books and journals. The method of research used is survey method for collecting information related to the demographic and behavioral dependent and independent variables of the respondents. The sample size was of 100 people among which only 49 replied who had knowledge about label information and country of production from Bangalore. The survey was conducted over mail. The demographic factors such as income, age, and gender were studied. The research also included other descriptive information such as how country of production impacts a consumers buying decisions with respect to electronic goods. The analysis was done on the basis of quantitative research approach. The SPSS software was being used to examine the Impacts of country of production on consumers' buying decisions are close ended. The researcher for the collection of data. All the questions are close ended. The questionnaire was made less than five points Likert scale. The data is analyzed with the help of SPSS and different techniques are used to interpret the data.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE

The population comprises of the consumers of Electronics products. The data is collected from a sample size of 49 consumers in order to find out the impact of Country of production on consumers buying decision in respect to electronic products.

INSTRUMENT

A questionnaire consisting of a line of questions and other options was circulated for the purpose of data collection. A questionnaire of 12 questions were 3 were demographic and rest 9 were related to research were used based on Likert Scale where 5 options were given measuring the degree of affirmation and agreement.

HYPOTHESES

H1: There is a relationship between country of production and Consumer buying decision.

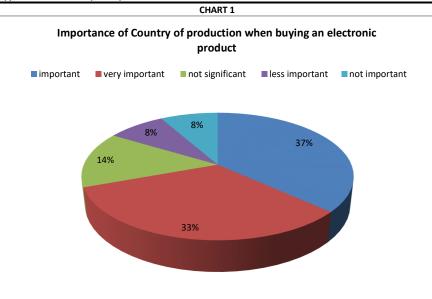
H0: There is a no relationship between country of production and Consumer buying decision.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

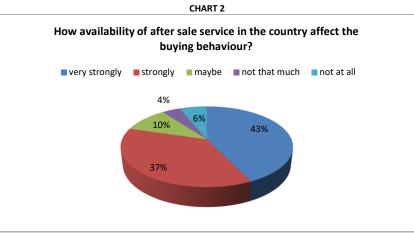
- Due to the short time limit, this research was conducted only on a small size of population
- The students' overloaded work, to some extent, might affect the result because they were required to take part in many studies at the same time
- The respondents might not be motivated to reply accurately to the questionnaire.
- The assessment of the pretest and post test was conducted by the author herself, it is unavoidable that in this study, certain degree of subjectivity can be found.
- The study is limited to Bangalore and as such it may not be possible to generalize the findings of the entire population of the country

FINDINGS

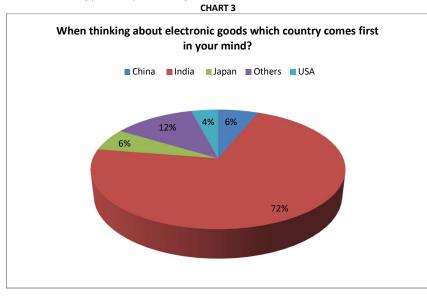
Out of many questions put forward, the importance of Country of production was also determined to which 37% people responded with important and 33% responded as very important. Very few, a total of 16% termed it as non-important and hence the majority agreed with the importance of country of production and its value.



Also majority of people preferred to buy goods for which the after sales service was available in the host country of the customer. This was irrespective of the country of production. Generally a product manufactured In India is more capable to provide end to end after sales service In India.



Another important finding was that the country's image matter a lot while deciding where to buy the electronics from. A lot of people prefer Japan and Korea for their new technology Adaptation, whereas majority of the respondents prefer India due to convenience, lower rates and better access to parts and spares. People then make their decision based on these country produced products only.



DATA ANALYSIS RELIABILITY Scale: ALL VARIABLES

TABLE 1: CASE PROCESSING SUMMARY

| | | N | % | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----|-------|--|--|--|
| | Valid | 49 | 81.7 | | | |
| Cases | Excluded ^a | 11 | 18.3 | | | |
| | Total | 60 | 100.0 | | | |
| a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure. | | | | | | |

TABLE 2: RELIABILITY STATISTICSCronbach's AlphaN of Items

.767 9

The reliability test shows Cronbach's alpha of 767 which indicates a high level of internal consistency for the scale with this specific sample. One way ANNOVA

In respect to income

| | TABLE | 3: ANOVA | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----|-------------|-------|------|
| | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
| | Between Groups | 4.794 | 4 | 1.198 | .813 | .524 |
| Chancesofswitchingbrands | Within Groups | 64.839 | 44 | 1.474 | | |
| | Total | 69.633 | 48 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 3.575 | 4 | .894 | .677 | .611 |
| Considerationoflabelinformation | Within Groups | 58.058 | 44 | 1.320 | | |
| | Total | 61.633 | 48 | | | |
| | Between Groups | .689 | 4 | .172 | .119 | .975 |
| ImportanceofCOOwhilebuying | Within Groups | 63.434 | 44 | 1.442 | | |
| | Total | 64.122 | 48 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 5.055 | 4 | 1.264 | 1.167 | .338 |
| Topcountriesforelectronicgoods | Within Groups | 47.639 | 44 | 1.083 | | |
| | Total | 52.694 | 48 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 7.423 | 4 | 1.856 | .965 | .436 |
| Indianmanufacturerscapability | Within Groups | 84.577 | 44 | 1.922 | | |
| | Total | 92.000 | 48 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 1.305 | 4 | .326 | .307 | .872 |
| EfficiencyofindiainElectronics | Within Groups | 46.695 | 44 | 1.061 | | |
| | Total | 48.000 | 48 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 2.542 | 4 | .635 | 1.533 | .209 |
| Highpricevscountrysimage | Within Groups | 18.234 | 44 | .414 | | |
| | Total | 20.776 | 48 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 11.217 | 4 | 2.804 | 2.065 | .102 |
| availability of aftersales ervice | Within Groups | 59.762 | 44 | 1.358 | | |
| | Total | 70.980 | 48 | | | |

This is the table that shows the output of the ANOVA analysis and whether there is a statistically significant difference between our group means. We can see that the significance value of all the factors is well above 0.05. And, therefore, there isn't any statistically significant difference in the mean length of time to complete the spreadsheet problem between the different courses taken.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above studies and tests it is evident that the country of production of any product does play a vital role in the mind of any buyer or potential buyer while selecting a product. This reveals that certain countries are able to build that goodwill and faith among the common customers when it comes to electronic products. However, apart from the country of production various other factors such as availability of after sale service, price of the product, brand image does influence the biasness of a customer but are very less significant when compared to the country of production. Therefore, it can be concluded that majority of people with certain class of knowledge and income have a certain amount of dependency on the country of production.

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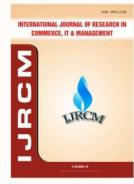
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