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OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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FINANCIAL CAPACITY AND ITS EFFECT ON IMPULSE BUYING BEHAVIOUR: AN ON-FIELD STUDY AT LULU INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING MALL, KOCHI

JITHIN RAJ R ASST. PROFESSOR MAR THOMA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AYUR

ELIZABETH JACOB ASST. PROFESSOR MAR THOMA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AYUR

ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to find the variables/factors that effects customer impulse buying behaviour in India. The impact of various impulse buying factors like Advertising, sales and promotions, packaging, effective pricing strategy, financial capacity of the customers, standard of living etc. behaviour has been analyzed. The study is based on the primary data collected from Lulu International Shopping Mall, Kochi with the help of structured questionnaire.

KEYWORDS

Consumer behaviour, Impulse buying, Income level.

INTRODUCTION

he purchase patterns of Indian customers have changed due to the changes in market as well as economic condition. Now consumers can choose from a wide variety of international products from their local markets. The change in the financial position of the people in India has made a drastic change in their consumption pattern too. With a lot of choices at hand and a chunk of disposable income, consumers still ensure quality and specification even in their impulse purchases.

This research suggests that the presence of other persons in a purchasing situation is likely to have a normative influence on the decision to make a purchase. The nature of this influence, however, depends on both perceptions of the normative expectations of the individuals who exert the influence and the motivation to comply with these expectations. Peers and family members are the two primary sources of social influence, often have different normative expectations.

IMPULSE BUYING BEHAVIOUR

Impulse buying is in fact making a decision on the spur of the moment, unplanned decision to buy, made just before a purchase. Research findings suggest that emotions and feelings play a decisive role in purchasing, triggered by seeing the product or upon exposure to a well crafted promotional message. Such purchases ranges from small (chocolate, clothing, magazine) to substantially large (jewellery, vehicle, work of art) and usually (about 80 percent of the time) lead to problems such as financial difficulties, family disapproval, or feeling of guilt or disappointment. Financial position has an important role on impulse buying behaviour. This study is all about to find out the role of financial position in impulse buying behaviour.

CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

The term consumer behaviour is defined as the behaviour that consumers display in searching for, purchasing, using, evaluating, and disposing of products and services that they expect will satisfy their needs. Consumer behaviour focuses on how individuals make decisions to spend their available resources (time, money, effort) on consumption related items. That includes what they buy, why they buy it, where they buy it, how often they buy it, how often they use it, how they evaluate it after the purchase, the impact of such evaluations on future purchases, and how they dispose of it.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is a powerful communication force, highly visible, and one of the most important tools of marketing communications that helps to sell products, services, ideas, and images, etc. Advertising is an indicator of growth of civilisation and a pointer of attempts at the betterment and perfection. It is part of our social, cultural, and business environment. Advertising reaches large, geographically dispersed audiences, often with high frequency; low cost per exposure, though overall costs are high. Advertisements may be designed to emphasize the rewards of impulse buying.

SALES PROMOTION

Sales promotion is the only method, among all the available promotional methods, that can make use of a combination of pull-push strategy to motivate consumers, trade people and the sales force simultaneously in transacting sales. The range of tools and techniques of sales promotion includes discounts, coupons, free samples, contests, games, premiums, sweepstakes, special packs, allowances, trade fairs, co-operative advertising, continuity programmes, demonstrations, exchange offers and many others. Sales promotions add value to the product or service, which is extra and not built into the product or service.

RETAILING FORMATS IN INDIA

SHOPPING MALLS

Shopping Malls are the largest form of organized retailing today. The concept is based on constructing centrally air—conditioned malls and renting the floor space out to individual shops. Malls inspire fashion—based shopping; as distinct from the need—based shopping inspired by super—markets and discount stores. They lend an ideal shopping experience with an amalgamation of product, service and entertainment; all under a common roof. Examples include Oberon Mall, Gold Souk Grande Pantaloons, LuLu International Shopping Mall.

SPECIALTY STORES

Specialty store is a small retail outlet that focuses on selling a particular product range and associated items. Most specialty store business operators will maintain considerable depth in the type of product that they specialize in selling, usually at premium prices, in addition to providing higher service quality and expert guidance to shoppers.

CONVENIENCE STORES

A convenience store is a well-located store. The ease of shopping and personalised services are the major reasons for its patronage, even when it charges average to above average prices, and carries a moderate number of items. It stays open for long hours and provides an average atmosphere and customer

services. It is often also called the "mom-and-pop" stores. It is useful for fill-in merchandise and emergency purchases. Many customers shop at least two to three times a week at these stores.

CONVENTIONAL SUPERMARKET

A conventional supermarket is a self-service food store offering groceries, meat, produce with limited sales of non-food items, such as health and beauty aids and general merchandise at low prices. They are large in size and carry 9,000 to 11,000 items. They are chosen due to volume sales, self-service, low prices and easy parking. The self-service nature allows supermarkets to cut costs, as well as increase volume.

DISCOUNT STORES

Discount stores are those stores that sell merchandise, especially consumer goods, at a discount from the manufacturer's suggested retail price. They are also called as discounter and discount house. They usually have many name-brand products and offer a wide price range of the items. The product category can range from a variety of perishable or non-perishable goods.

DEPARTMENT STORE

A department store is a large retail unit with an extensive assortment (width and depth) of goods and services that are organised into separate departments for purposes of buying, promotion, customer service and control. It has the greatest selection of any general merchandise retailer and often serves as the anchor store in a shopping centre or district. Department Stores are unique in terms of the shopping experience they offer, the services they provide and the atmosphere of the store. They offer a full range of services from altering clothing to home delivery. Over its history, the department store has been responsible for many innovations, including advertising prices, enacting a one-price policy (whereby all shoppers pay the same price for the same good or service.), developing computerised checkouts, offering money back guarantees, adding branch stores and decentralised management.

HYPERMARKETS

A hypermarket is a very large retail store offering low prices. It combines a discount store and superstore food retailer in one warehouse like building. Hypermarkets can be up to 300,000 square feet and stock over 50,000 different items. Hypermarkets are unique in terms of store size; low operating margins, low prices and the size of general merchandise assortment. The store sells a broad variety of basic merchandise ranging from food to consumer electronics. All hypermarkets are based on three concepts of: one stop shopping, ample free parking and a discount pricing strategy. The main limitation of hypermarkets is that many consumers find that shopping in stores over 200,000 square feet is too time consuming. It is hard to find merchandise and checkout lines can be very long.

MBOS

Multi Brand Outlets (MBOs), also known as Category Killers, offer several brands across a single product category. These usually do well in busy market places and Metros. Now-a-days such stores are making their ways into less metropolitan cities also because of their popularity and utilitarian ranges they are received very well by the consumers.

COMPANY PROFILE

In the present research paper, the study has been focused on LuLu International Shopping Mall to know the impulse buying behaviour of the consumers. The brief profiles of the company are as follows:

LuLu International Shopping Mall is India's largest shopping mall in gross leasable area and second-largest shopping mall in gross floor area. It is located in the Edapally neighbourhood of Kochi, Kerala. It is built on an area of 17 acres, with the gross floor area of the mall alone at 2,500,000 square feet. The mall is run, managed and set up by the EMKE Group, a business group with interests in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Impulse buying has been a topic of interest for researchers of the past sixty years (Clover⁵, 1950; Stern¹⁶, 1962; Rook¹⁵, 1987; Hausman⁹, 2000; Peck and Childers¹³, 2006; Chang⁴, et .al, 2011). According to Engel and Blackwell⁸ (1982) impulse buying is an action undertaken without previously having been consciously recognised or a buying intention formed prior to entering the store.

The descriptions of impulse buying before the study of Rook (1987) were focused on the product while determining an impulse purchase. Rook (1987) argued that during impulse buying, the consumer experiences an instantaneous, overpowering and persistent desire. He characterised the impulse buying as unintended, non-reflective reaction, which occurs soon after being exposed to stimuli inside the store.

Abratt and Goodey¹ (1990) found that the examination of impulse buying in supermarkets could be of much interest to the manufacturers as well as retailers worldwide. Piron¹⁴ (1991) attempted to define the impulse buying by reviewing the past research works and found that the earlier studies revealed impulse buying to be very similar to unplanned purchasing (Clover 1950, West¹⁷ 1951), and forwarded his findings with managerial interests in mind. Rook and Gardner (1993) defined impulse buying as an unplanned behavior involving quick decision-making and tendency for immediate acquisition of the product.

Beatty and Ferrell² (1998) described that Impulse buying refers to immediate purchases which are without any pre-shopping objective either to purchase the specific product category or to fulfill a specific need. They explained that the impulse buying behavior occurs after experiencing a buying desire by the shopper and without much reflection. The buying of an item which is out-of-stock and reminded during encountering the product are excluded from the purview of impulse buying.

Biyani³ (2007) describes that we are on the cusp of change wherein a huge, multicultural India is transforming from a socialist economy to consumption-led, creative economy. The scope and depth of change is taking place due to the revolutionary retail market with a gigantic opportunity for marketers and retailers, not only in large cities but also in small towns.

Dobbin⁷ (2011) says that shopping behavior has changed and malls have become the landmark of urban shopping. In India, malls have transformed shopping from a need-driven activity to a leisure time entertainment.

Marketers should promote a good store layout to maximize the convenience of the consumer (Crawford and Melewar⁶, 2003). A well-trained salesperson can decrease frustration by guiding and aiding the consumer in the purchase process and activate impulse buying behavior (Crawford and Melewar, 2003). Store atmospherics is important to stimulate impulse purchase (Crawford and Melewar, 2003). Store managers can look at a number of environmental design variables to increase stimulation in their shops. Impulsiveness sometimes depends on store type (Wong and Zhou¹⁸, 2003).

The availability of money is a facilitator in the impulse buying process (Mai¹² et al., 2003), since it increases the purchasing power of the individual. If the individual does not have enough money, he or she will avoid the shopping environment altogether. Consumers have propensity to buy impulsively (Jones¹⁰ et al., 2003).

Presence of others increases the likelihood of impulse purchase. For example, when individuals are in a group, they tend to eat more (Luo¹¹, 2004). Individuals who perceive self-discrepancy try to use material goods to compensate the discrepancy, have impulse buying tendencies (Luo, 2004).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The Research Objectives are as follows

- i. To investigate the influence of gender on factors affecting impulse buying behaviour.
- ii. To investigate the influence of age on factors affecting impulse buying behaviour.
- $\hbox{iii.} \qquad \hbox{ To determine the influence of occupation on factors affecting impulse buying behaviour.} \\$
- iv. To determine the influence of occupation on factors affecting impulse buying behaviour

HYPOTHESES

- i. There is no association between gender and the factors influencing impulse buying behaviour.
- ii. There is no association between age and the factors influencing impulse buying behaviour.
- iii. There is no association between occupation and the factors influencing impulse buying behaviour.

. There is no association between income and the factors influencing impulse buying behaviour.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on the primary data collected from LuLu International Shopping Mall from the area of the city of Ernakulum with the help of structured questionnaire on Likert scale. Data analysis has been done using SPSS software.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to impulse buying behaviour of customers. Regarding the respondents, customers of Agra city were selected randomly. The geographical area of the study was restricted to Ernakulum City only.

DATA COLLECTION

The data was collected from potential customers of the existing outlets of LuLu International Shopping Mall. The primary data collection has been done by rendering a questionnaire to the customer and seeking their responses for the study.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This is an empirical study based on survey method. This study was based mainly on primary data. The primary data was collected from Ernakulum city. A pilot study was conducted with 10 respondents. The information contained in the questionnaire has been tested and the necessary changes were incorporated in the revised questionnaire in the light of experience gained in the pilot study. The questionnaire used in this study was constructed on Likert Scale Method

SAMPLE DESIGN

A convenience sample of 100 potential customers of LuLu International Shopping Mall, Kochi was taken for the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After going through the data analysis it has been revealed that various pattern with respect to the respondents has been received. The first table shows the results of Chi-square test of independence between gender and the factors influencing impulse buying behaviour. The second table is the result of the chi-square test of independence of age and the variables. The third table is the test of independence of occupation and the various variables followed by the test of independence of income and the factors affecting impulse purchases.

TABLE 1: CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS OF GENDER WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS VARIABLES

Variables	Chi-square Value	Significance Value	Null Hypothesis
Low cost*	13.419	.009	Rejected
Promotional Schemes	3.406	.333	Accepted
Waited and made available	8.262	.082	Accepted
By seeing others	4.245	.236	Accepted
Willingness to try unusual*	10.284	.016	Rejected
Seen first time and picked up	3.800	.284	Accepted
The person with whom you are going for Shopping influences buying behaviour	8.036	.045	Accepted
By watching recent ads*	23.194	.000	Rejected
Attractive price of products	6.139	.105	Accepted
Discount offers regarding product*	19.802	.001	Rejected
Display of products in store	7.391	.117	Accepted
Packaging of product	4.525	.210	Accepted
Changing trend in society*	13.980	.007	Rejected
Requirement of product	3.896	.273	Accepted
Financial capacity	5.565	.135	Accepted
Standard of living has a role to play in buying Products	5.089	.165	Accepted

* Chi-square value statistically significant at 0.05

The above table clearly indicates that gender impulse buying behaviour differs with respect to availability of low cost products, discounts offered, new and unusual products, advertisements and changing trends in the society. Female consumers indicated a preference for low cost products and discount offers. Whereas males showed an interest to try unusual products, advertisements related to new offerings and a need to follow the changing trends. This is indicative of the fact that male consumers tend to try new and innovative products whereas female consumers can be moved to make impulsive purchases only by offering cost benefits.

TABLE 2: CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS OF AGE WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS VARIABLES

Variables	Chi-square Value	Significance Value	Null Hypothesis
Low cost*	59.452	.000	Rejected
Promotional Schemes*	18.005	.006	Rejected
Waited and made available*	39.354	.000	Rejected
By seeing others*	103.523	.000	Rejected
Willingness to try unusual	8.543	.201	Accepted
Seen first time and picked up*	27.146	.000	Rejected
The person with whom you are going for Shopping influences buying behaviour*	39.257	.000	Rejected
By watching recent ads*	37.818	.000	Rejected
Attractive price of products*	27.150	.000	Rejected
Discount offers regarding product*	20.059	.010	Rejected
Display of products in store	13.807	.087	Accepted
Packaging of product*	37.560	.000	Rejected
Changing trend in society*	76.975	.000	Rejected
Requirement of product*	15.663	.016	Rejected
Financial capacity*	36.882	.000	Rejected
Standard of living has a role to play in buying Products	9.412	.152	Accepted

* Chi-square value statistically significant at 0.05

The test of independence of age indicated a significant influence on almost all factors affecting impulse buying behaviour except the factors such as display of products in store, willingness to try unusual and the standard of living. The younger crowd (Below 25 years) showed a preference on promotional activities and recent advertisements. They also showed a preference for trying new products. Respondents falling in the age- group 25-35 showed preference for packaging of the product, changing trends and their financial capacity. The age group of 35-45 years on the other hand seemed price sensitive giving preference for low cost products or those with attractive discount offers. Unlike the other age-groups, they also seemed to be influenced by the accompanying person's opinion and the utility value of the product they require.

TABLE 3. CHI COLLABE ANALYSIS O	F OCCUPATION WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS VARIABLES
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Variables	Chi-square Value	Significance Value	Null Hypothesis
Low cost*	92.202	.000	Rejected
Promotional Schemes*	44.360	.000	Rejected
Waited and made available*	95.183	.000	Rejected
By seeing others*	26.452	.002	Rejected
Willingness to try unusual*	73.651	.000	Rejected
Seen first time and picked up*	50.114	.000	Rejected
The person with whom you are going for Shopping influences buying behaviour*	51.473	.000	Rejected
By watching recent ads*	58.992	.000	Rejected
Attractive price of products*	88.471	.000	Rejected
Discount offers regarding product*	33.675	.001	Rejected
Display of products in store*	55.368	.000	Rejected
Packaging of product*	68.955	.000	Rejected
Changing trend in society*	123.481	.000	Rejected
Requirement of product*	31.934	.000	Rejected
Financial capacity*	42.286	.000	Rejected
Standard of living has a role to play in buying Products*	52.026	.000	Rejected

^{*} Chi-square value statistically significant at 0.05

Occupation of the respondent seemed to have a strong influence on impulse buying behaviour. Those respondents with a high profile career such as business persons and professionals gave more importance for promotions, changing trends and new and innovative products. Whereas the regular income category showed a sensitiveness to price variables such as low cost products discount offers.

TABLE 4: CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS OF INCOME WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS VARIABLES

Variables	Chi-square Value	Significance Value	Null Hypothesis
Low cost*	150.272	.000	Rejected
Promotional Schemes*	38.524	.000	Rejected
Waited and made available*	49.341	.000	Rejected
By seeing others*	32.198	.000	Rejected
Willingness to try unusual*	36.120	.000	Rejected
Seen first time and picked up*	51.819	.000	Rejected
The person with whom you are going for Shopping influences buying behaviour*	55.206	.000	Rejected
By watching recent ads*	67.708	.000	Rejected
Attractive price of products*	90.492	.000	Rejected
Discount offers regarding product*	33.434	.001	Rejected
Display of products in store*	46.394	.000	Rejected
Packaging of product*	67.358	.000	Rejected
Changing trend in society*	119.812	.000	Rejected
Requirement of product*	29.434	.001	Rejected
Financial capacity*	74.860	.000	Rejected
Standard of living has a role to play in buying Products*	27.177	.001	Rejected

^{*} Chi-square value statistically significant at 0.05

Income variable also showed a similar result to that of occupation. The high income group indicated a preference for promotions, trying unusual products and changing trends. The middle income group evolved as the price sensitive category.

CONCLUSION

The study pragmatically reveals that almost every individual resorts to an impulse buying behaviour for at least a few purchases, if not all. Financial capacity plays a key role in defining the type of products purchased impulsively. Regular income groups showed price sensitiveness and preference for discounts and low priced products. Higher income groups, on the other hand, indicated a keen interest to follow the fashion and upcoming market trends. Younger crowd showed least importance to value for money.

From an organisational point of view, integrated marketing communications to build awareness and association of customers with the product would help brands capture a part of the disposable income. Prudent placing of products attracts the customers towards frequent purchases.

Choosing a prime location for providing a complete shopping experience helps in augmenting impulse purchases. Ambience attracts young crowd to the malls providing them a space for leisure with family and friends. This research suggests that the presence of other persons in a purchasing situation is likely to have an influence on the decision to make a purchase. Friends and family members are the two primary sources of social influence.

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