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A STUDY ON CONSUMERS PERCEPTION ON E-RETAIL STORES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ERNAKULAM

CITY

AISWARYA KRISHNAN STUDENT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT AMRITA SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES KOCHI

ANILA.C STUDENT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT AMRITA SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES KOCHI

JAYASHANKAR.J ASST. PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT AMRITA SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES KOCHI

ABSTRACT

The retail sector is modernising and expanding rapidly along with the growth of Indian economy. Now a day's most of the consumers have changed their preferences from organized sectors to organized e-retail formats. Electronic retailing is the sale of goods and services through internet. E-tailing can include business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) sale of product and services, through subscription to website content or through advertising. This study aims to measure the consumer preference of mobile phones through e retail format, which product do consumer purchase most, the reason behind their choices, to identify various factors or determinants that influence the consumers, at the same time the level of satisfaction which the consumer receive from this transitions. This study also throws a light on the merger of the organized retail sector with e-retailing formats. The pedagogic tools used are percentage analysis and by preparing questionnaire, personal interviews have also been taken. This study is limited to Cochin City.

KEYWORDS

e-tailing, digitalization, consumer preference, consumer satisfaction, organized retail sector.

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INTRODUCTION

he challenge of the retail business is the human condition"



Howard Schultz

CEO of Starbucks

The human condition is getting advanced day to day. Electronic retailing is the sale of goods and services through the internet. Electronic retailing or e-retailing can include Business to Business (B2B) and Business to customer (B2C) sale of product and services, through websites or through advertising. The technological advancement like smart-phones, connectivity, network, Artificial intelligence etc. made the transformation of organized retailers to e-tailing formats. Getting through unorganized to organized retail and to organized e-retailing formats is one of the major changes that took place in evolution of Indian retail economy. Recently an American based company, Walmart had merged with Flipkart an Indian e-commerce platform which is a big revolution in the retailing sector of India. The e-retail 'head' Flipkart who had pioneered e-retailing in India, merging (with Walmart) indirectly involved into a FDI and also it increases the economic development of the country and consumer satisfaction through providing good quality product and services, providing skilled jobs and fresh opportunity for small and medium enterprise(SME).

"Consumers are the king of the business". As the time passes consumer became more practical and hence brands need to find innovative ways to enhance customer experience through online. Consumerism is having a huge impact on these e-retailing sectors. Consumers prefer the goods according to their needs, quality, at lowest prices and more than that without wasting time, overall what they really expect is transparency in providing accurate information with easy access to the review and information provided. Consumers are able to do their 'branded and quality' shopping without any geographical boundaries.

E-commerce giants like Flipkart, Amazon is also playing a major role in providing consumer satisfaction selling of electronic goods. Especially in the selling of 'smartphones'e-retailing increased tremendously. The reason behind this is lower price rates of the same products in online as well as offline market which creates change in the consumer behaviour. Brands like Xiaomi; Moto who have a huge customer base is growing tremendously through e-retail sales. There is a huge gap between offline and online due to the introduction of GST regime. The prices of smart-phones in stores have risen as compared to prices of e-retail platforms.

The world of technology and digitalization has a big impact on Consumers. Consumers move from or they are in search of more adoptable methods of shopping in their busy life. Hence e-retail stores play a major role in the life of people today. Also the introduction of e-wallets and e-payments like e-pay, paytm also is a huge benefit for the e-commerce operators. The transformation of economy through digitalized money or cashless economy is holding hands together with e-retailers for providing a better customer satisfaction.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to have a proper knowledge of the subject, it is essential to know other academic researcher's publications. Thus the planning and execution of any research should be done by thorough review of literature in related topics, since it helps to understand the work that has been done in that area. It eliminates the possibility of unnecessary duplication of efforts, provides valuable information on research techniques. In this part of the review, various national and international literatures related to retail industry and shopping are studied. Topics such as, consumer market, pricing service, convenience, upcoming e-retail formats, shopping

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goods, e-retail service quality, online shopping service, consumer perception, preferences and attitude towards e-retailing etc. are studied. The studies provided insight to understand the mind-set of the informed consumers and various retailing activities that enhance the customer satisfaction. Following are some of the literature reviewed in this direction:

- G.S. Suresh Chander, Chandrshekharan Rajendran, R.N. Antharaman (2002) "The relationship between service quality and customer satisfaction" The study reveals that customer satisfaction and service quality has emerged as a big concern relating to retailing. It reveals the dependence of consumer satisfaction and service quality.
- Cygnus (2008) "Indian Retail Industry" in his findings stressed on the changing consumers trends and preferences and their impact on organized retailing. Study says that retail sector is at a crossroads where the growth of organized retailing and growth in the consumption by the Indian consumers is going to take an elevated growth curve.
- Singh Sumanjeet (2009) "Emergence of payment system in the age of electronic commerce" The study discusses on the emergence of electronic cash system, electronic payment system, and electronic cheque system on introduction of e-commerce. It has analysed the difference between each electronic payment system by evaluating their requirements and applicability
- Ali et al (2010) "Consumers buying behavior with respect to food and grocery items". It reveals to develop a marketing strategy for a modem food/grocery
 market based on consumer preferences and behavior. The author is the view that the consumers are in a relatively advantageous position in terms of
 purchasing power and awareness of health and nutrition. Higher income and educational levels of consumers influence their decisions on product and market
 attributes, while gender and age seem to have no significant impact. The preferences of the consumers clearly indicate their priority for cleanliness/freshness
 of food products followed by price, quality, variety, packaging, and non-seasonal availability. The consumers' preference of market/place largely depends on
 the convenience in purchasing at the market/place along with the availability of additional services, attraction for children, basic amenities and affordability.
- Monika Gupta and Amit Mittal (2010) "Consumer perceptions towards different retail format in India". The past study attempts to identify perceptions of consumers towards existing retail formats in India. To have in-depth study of consumer perceptions, the basis on which consumers have been segmented keeping in view the products to be sold. The customers remain in dilemma about outlet choice vs. brand choice. Customers are highly influenced by image of the retail outlet, its attributes, product range, variety, services, employee's behavior, decor, music and marketing strategies. For this, we need to understand the process of outlet selection, consumer choice and shopping behavior, the shopping process, shopper types and shopping strategies, choice decisions during shopping choice, attempts made by marketers to close the gap between expectation and performance. The retailers should put in efforts focusing on attracting the customers towards the store outlets on continual basis by focusing on their distinct features, thus, adding to the retail formats, followed by persuasion of paying a visit to the store causing a positive impact on the prospects by their effective formats.
- Sudha Vemaraju (2011) "Changing waves in Indian retailing: Impact of customer perception and CRM on Indian Retailing in the changing Business scenario" reveals the current changing business scenario, retail industry has witnessed major revolution and global attention. The Indian retail industry is the 5th largest and the 3rd attractive destination in the world and account over 10% of the country's GDP and 8% of the total employment. Customer perception towards quality, variety services and customer relationship management and also to know the changing waves in retailing.
- Deepika Jhamb and Ravi Kiran (2012) "Emerging Retail format and it's Attribute: An insight to convenient shopping". The outcome of the research reveals that the improvement in retail sectors in India especially the modern retail format, its attributes, and types of goods and impact of consumer demography on the choice of emerging retail formats.
- Kall Lyytein and Richard.J.Boland (2012): In their study they have discussed the importance of "digital technology platform, the emergence of distributed innovation". They have deeply studied the changes in the nature of product and services innovation. The fundamental properties of digital technology are re-programmability and data homogenization. Together they provide an environment of open and flexible affordance that is used in creativity innovation.
- Piyush Kumar Sinha, Srikant Gokhale and Sujo Thomas (2012) in "Development of Modern Retailing in India. It's Impact on distribution and procurement network and changing consumption pattern" they analysed that entry of retailers in different format including online, has affected an irrelevant change in consumer buying habits and business related to serving these retailers.
- Arun Thamizhvanam, M.J. Xavier (2013) "Determinants of customers' online purchase intention: An empirical study in India" the study discusses about the impact on the customer purchase intention and consumer behavior on online retailing
- Nirankushdutta, Anil.k.Bhat (2014) "Flipkart: Journey of an Indian ecommerce start up", This study reveals the new strategy or trend introduced by 'Flipkart' a ecommerce site, in-order to capture success till now, they have overcome the hurdles to attain success.
- Jayakrishnan S Nair (2015) "E-retailing in India: Opportunities and challenges". The research reveals that e-retailing or online is growing at faster pace in India but along with that growing challenges are also discussed.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The history of retail industry can be dated back to the economic reforms in India during 1990's. From there onwards there was a tremendous change in market situation with the Indian as well as International cooperate entry into Indian retail scenario, the market has been divided between the unorganized and organized sector and now another big revolution is the bifurcation between organized retail to e-retail. This study will contribute to the understanding of organized retailer's perception towards organized e-retailing justifying the need for research, as this could help retailers to strategize accordingly. An attempt has been made to explore the way e-retailing have dramatically changed not only the Indian organized retailing. The change in the e-retail system and the effect on the organized retailers need an in depth study to access the impact on these e-retailing sites on the present retail system. This study will look into the factors affecting the organized retailers. Also this study will extend towards identifying the reasons of the consumer shift towards e-retail stores.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Researchers have introduced various concept and relevant models about e-retails formats and consumer behaviour, most of the studies have focussed on consumer shopping or buying behaviour through e-retail stores and consumer choice on e-retail format. Customers are mainly concerned about the security problem that they may face during the transactions. At present, the net capacity to handle all the transactions is not sufficient, when everyone starts using e-retail stores. So, in some cases e-retail stores are time consuming and late delivery to inner most parts of India. Consumer are very difficult to understand and their expectation due to their various factors influences purchase of merchandise thus, this made us to conduct the study on consumer preference on e-retail stores and awareness regarding e-retail stores and factors affecting the consumers adopting the e-retail shopping.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Before the start of any research, it is essential to define the objective of the study.

The present study will be undertaken with the following broad objectives:

- 1. To analyse the trend in e-retailing
- 2. To study the impact of organized e-retail stores up to the organized malls.
- 3. To know the consumer preference on mobile phones through e-retail format.
- 4. To know the factors which influence consumer preference and the level of satisfaction they get
- 5. To analyse the responses of organized retailers and to identify various strategies undertaken by organized retail sector to help them build and sustain competitive advantage.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Source of data: The data for the study will be collected from both primary and secondary source. The primary data will be collected by way of well-structured questionnaires and the secondary data will be collected with reference to various online websites.

Population: The sample for the study will be selected from the youth which include both working and non-working class, with the advent of technology and political reforms, more number of people are adopting e-retailing.

Sampling design: Sampling design refers to the technique or procedure that researcher would adopt in selecting item from the sample. The sampling design used for this study is Probability Sampling.

Sample Size: In order to get complete picture of the topic data will be collected from both the users and non-users of e-retailing.

Sampling Method: Random Sampling method is used to collect the data from the respondent.

Tool for analysis: Analysis of the data, which will be collected, is an important aspect of any study. This can be done using various statistical tools. In this study the tool to be used is percentage analysis.

Presentation: The collected data primarily will be presented in the forms of tables, to provide a better understanding of the data. After tabulation, a pictorial representation of the tabulated data is made with the help of graphs, pie charts and bar charts etc. This will provide ease in case of analysis of data.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

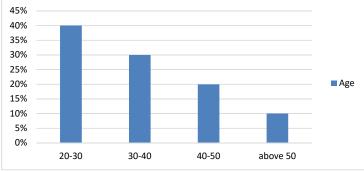
The study is conducted on consumer preference on e-retail stores in Ernakulam city with a sample size of 50 who were consumers of e-retail formats. The results were as stated below.

TABLE 1: SHOWING PREFERENCE OF CUSTOMERS BASED ON AGE COMPOSITION

AGE	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE		
20-30	20	40%		
30-40	15	30%		
40-50	10	20%		
Above 50	5	10%		
TOTAL	50	100		
Courses Data				

Source: Primary Data



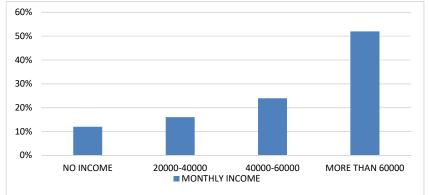


Source: Table 1

INTERPRETATION: From the above table or chart which shows the preferences of customers based on age composition, a majority of 40% under the age of 20-30 prefer e-retailing format whereas minority of 10% under the age of above 50 prefer less over e-retail stores.

TABLE 2: SHOWING MONTHLY INCOMES			
MONTHLY INCOME	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE	
NO INCOME	6	12%	
20000-40000	8	16%	
40000-60000	12	24%	
MORE THAN 60000	26	52%	
TOTAL	50	100	
Source: Primary Data			

CHART 2: SHOWING MONTHLY INCOME





INTERPRETATION: From the above table or chart which shows the preference of customers based on income level, majority of 52% of the consumers are earnings above 60000 prefer e-retail stores and the number of preferences decreases in direct proportion with income level.

TABLE 3: SH	ABLE 3: SHOWING THE USAGE OF E-RETAIL STORE AS A CUSTOMER			
	USAGE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE	
	YES	40	80	
	NO	10	20	
	TOTAL	50	100	
		6 D .		

Source: Primary Data



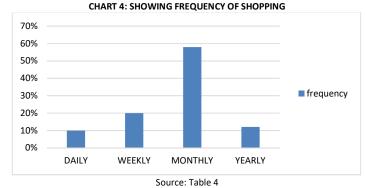


Source: Table 3

INTERPRETATION: From the above the table or chart which shows the number of customers who purchase through e-retail stores 80% of the total respondents agreed that they purchase through e-retail stores and 20% of the respondent disagreed that they are the customers of e-retail stores.

TABLE 4: SHOWING FREQUENCY OF SHOPPING			
FREQUENCY	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE	
DAILY	5	10%	
WEEKLY	10	20%	
MONTHLY	29	58%	
YEARLY	6	12%	
TOTAL	50	100	
Source: Primary Data			

Source: Primary Data



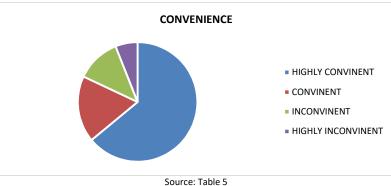
INTERPRETATION: From the above table or chart which shows the frequency of shopping it was found that majority of 58% of the customers shop monthly and minority of 10% of the customers used to shop daily.

TAB	LE 5: SHOWING THE	CONV	ENIENCE OF	USIN	IG THE E-RETAIL APP	

CONVENIENCE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
HIGHLY CONVENIENT	32	64%
CONVENIENT	9	18%
INCONVENIENT	6	12%
HIGHLY INCONVENIENT	3	6%
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

CHART 5: SHOWING CONVENIENCE LEVEL WHILE USING E-RETAIL APP



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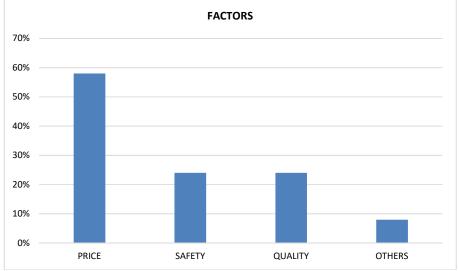
INTERPRETATION: From the above chart or table which shows the convenience level of using e-retail app after considering the usage of smart phones, internet connections. In this arena 64% of the total respondent agree with highly convenient of using the e-retail app. The least of 6% have agreed that it is highly inconvenient to use the e-retail app due to lack of internet connections and fear of safety.

TABLE 6: SHOWING FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE SHOPPING THROUGH E-RETAIL STORES

FACTORS	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
PRICE	29	58%
SAFETY	12	24%
QUALITY	12	24%
OTHERS	4	8%
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

CHART 6: SHOWING THE FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE SHOPPING THROUGH E-RETAIL STORES.



Source: Table 6

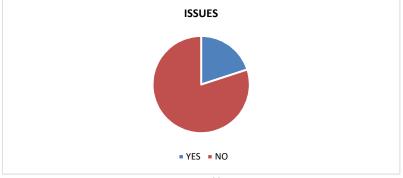
INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned chart or table which shows factors which influence the shopping through e-retail stores a majority of 58% prefer to shop due to price and the minority of 8% consider others as a factors which include delivery issues etc.

TABLE 7: SHOWING ISSUES WITH THE APPLICATION OR SERVICES OF E-RETAIL STORES

ISSUES	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
YES	10	20%
NO	40	80%
TOTAL	50	100
Source: Primary Data		

Source: Primary Data

CHART 7: SHOWING THE ISSUES WITH THE APPLICATION OR SERVICES OF E-RETAIL STORES



Source: Table 7

INTERPRETATION: From the above table or chart which shows that any issues with the application or services with e-retail store shows that 80% of the respondent did not had any issues with the e-retail stores and 20% of the respondents had issue with the services.

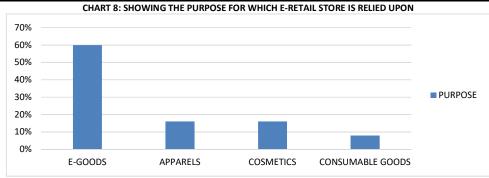
TABLE 8: SHOWING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH E-RETAIL STORE IS RELIED UPON

PURPOSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
APPARELS	8	16%
COSMETICS	8	16%
E-GOODS	30	60%
CONSUMABLE GOOD	4	8%
TOTAL	50	100

Sources: Primary Data

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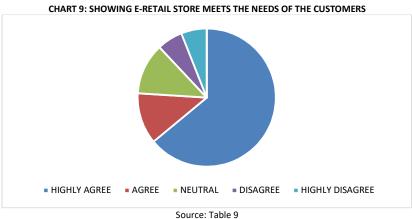


Source: Table 8

INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows the purpose for which consumer rely on e-retail store. 60% of the respondents prefer E-Goods and minority of 8% prefer for consumable goods through e-retail stores.

OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
HIGHLY AGREE	32	64%
AGREE	6	12%
NEUTRAL	6	12%
DISAGREE	3	6%
HIGHLY DISAGREE	3	6%
TOTAL	50	100
Sou	rces: Primary Data	





INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows the e-retail store meets the needs of the customers a majority of 64% rated it with highly agree and a minority of 6% rated it as highly disagreeing to it.

TABLE 10: SHOWING E-RETAIL STORE IS THE PREFERRED METHOD OF SHOPPING

LEVEL	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES
HIGHLY AGREE	32	64%
AGREE	9	18%
DISAGREE	6	12%
HIGHLY DISAGREE	3	6%
TOTAL	50	100
Source: Primary Data		

Source: Primary Data

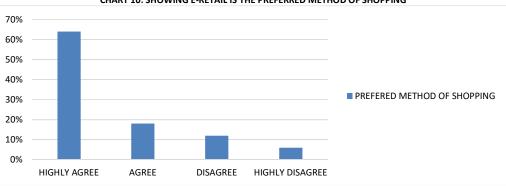


CHART 10: SHOWING E-RETAIL IS THE PREFERRED METHOD OF SHOPPING

Source: Table 10

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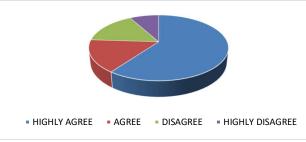
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INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows that E-retail is the preferred method of shopping majority of 64% highly agrees with the fact and a minority of 6% highly disagrees with the fact.

TABLE 11: SHOWING E-RETAIL STORE PROVIDES MORE AFFORDABLE E-GOODS

AFFORDABLE E-GOODS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES
HIGHLY AGREE	30	60%
AGREE	8	16%
DISAGREE	8	16%
HIGHLY DISAGREE	4	8%
TOTAL	50	100
Source: Primary Data		

CHART 11: SHOWING E-RETAIL STORE PROVIDING MORE AFFORDABLE E-GOODS



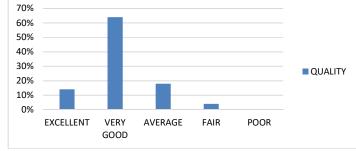
Source: Table 11

INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows that e-retail provides more affordable e-goods and 60% of the total respondents agreed that e-retail provides affordable e-goods.8% highly disagree to this point.

TABLE 12: SHOWING E-RETAIL STORES QUALITY AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THEM TO THE CUSTOMERS

RATING	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES
EXCELLENT	7	14%
VERY GOOD	32	64%
AVERAGE	9	18%
FAIR	2	4%
POOR	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	50	100
Source: Primary Data		

CHART 12: SHOWING E-RETAIL STORES QUALITY AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THEM TO THE CUSTOMERS



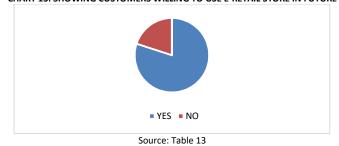
Source: Table 12

INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows the rating of quality of e-retail stores a majority of 64% rated it as very good and a minority of 2% rated it as a fair.

TABLE 13: SHOWING CUSTOMERS WILLING TO USE E-RETAIL STORES IN FUTURE

USAGE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
YES	40	80%
NO	10	20%
TOTAL	50	100
Source: Primary Data		

CHART 13: SHOWING CUSTOMERS WILLING TO USE E-RETAIL STORE IN FUTURE



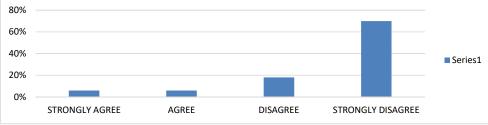
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INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows customers are willing to use e-retail stores in the future, a majority of 80% have agreed to the notion and a minority of 20% have disagreed to it.

TABLE 14: SHOWING WHETHER E-RETAIL STORES HAVE OVERCHARGED THE CUSTOMERS FOR ANY PRODUCTS

LEVEL	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
STRONGLY AGREE	3	6%
AGREE	3	6%
DISAGREE	9	18%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	35	70%
TOTAL	50	100
Source: Primary Data		

CHART 14: SHOWING WHETHER E-RETAIL STORES HAVE OVERCHARGED THE CUSTOMERS FOR ANY PRODUCTS



Source: Table 14

INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows whether the customers have been overcharged by e-retail store on the products a majority of 70% have strongly disagreed to the fact and a minority of 6% have agreed to the mentioned above.

A business can use variety of pricing strategies when selling a product or service. Hence, it is assessed that whether the pricing strategy provided by the e-retail stores is responsible or not.
TABLE 15: SHOWING REASONABLE PRICING STRATEGY

ΠD	BLE 15. SHOWING REASONABLE FRICING STRATE			
	OPINION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE	
	YES	38	76%	
	NO	12	24%	
	TOTAL	50	100	
	Source: Primary Data			

Source: Primary Data



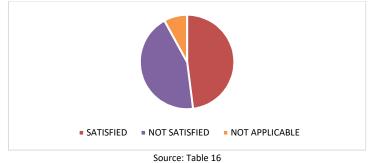
Source: Table 15

INTERPRETATION: From the above chart or table which shows the reasonability in the pricing strategy of the e-retail stores 76% of the total respondents agrees that there is reasonability in the pricing strategy of the e-retail stores while 24% disagree with the fact that there is reasonability in the pricing strategy of the e-retail stores.

TABLE 16: SHOWING SATISFACTION OF PRICING STRATEGY		
LEVEL OF SATISFACTION	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
SATISFIED	24	48%
NOT SATISFIED	22	44%
NOT APPLICABLE	4	8%
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

CHART 16: SHOWING SATISFACTION OF PRICING STRATEGY



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INTERPRETATION: From the above chart or table which shows the satisfaction level of the consumers relating to pricing strategy of the e-retail stores after considering various discounts, sales and other offers. In this arena 48% of the total respondents are satisfied with the pricing strategy adopted by e-retail stores. This means that consumers are not fully satisfied with the pricing strategy of the e-retail stores.

There are four levels of customer satisfaction, all based on the degree to which you meet customer expectation. The higher the level you achieve, the more you will build customer loyalty and greater the success.

TABLE 17. SHOWING THE CLISTOMED LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

TABLE 17: SHOWING THE COSTOMER LEVEL OF SATISFACTION		
LEVEL OF SATISFACTION	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
SATISFIED	39	78%
NOT SATISFIED	7	14%
NOT APPLICABLE	4	8%
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

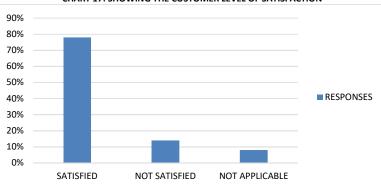


CHART 17: SHOWING THE CUSTOMER LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

Source: Table 17

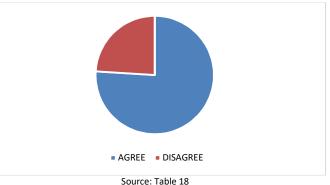
INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows the level of satisfaction level of the consumers towards e-retail stores a majority of 76% are satisfied towards e-retailing format a minority of 14% is not satisfied.

TABLE 18: SHOWING THE NECESSITY OF DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS BY E-RETAIL STORES IN EVERY PART OF INDIA

RESPONSES	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES
AGREE	38	76%
DISAGREE	12	24%
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

CHART 18: SHOWING THE NECESSITY OF DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS BY E-RETAIL STORES IN EVERY PART OF INDIA



INTERPRETATION: From the above mentioned table or chart which shows the opinion of the consumers regarding the necessity of the delivery of products by eretail stores a majority of 76% of the consumer agree with the fact that e-retail store should reach every part of India including rural and under developed area and a minority of 24% disagrees with the fact.

FINDINGS

- The study shows that basically younger generation and middle aged prefer e-retail stores while the older generation sticks to local convenient store.
- With reference to attitude and behaviour of customers towards E-Retail sectors it was found that a majority of 58% used to shop monthly. A majority of 60% prefer to shop E-goods through online shopping. A majority of 48% are satisfied with the pricing strategy of e-retail stores. All these data states that the consumers are having a positive attitude and are inclined towards e-retail stores formats in their purchase decision making process.
- With reference to the assessment of the level of satisfaction of consumers with the features of the e-retail sectors it was found that as a whole of 78% of the consumer are satisfied with features of e-retail stores.
- The different determinants of the customer satisfaction in e-retail stores were found are product quality, providing affordable e-goods, acceptable pricing strategy. In specific 64% of the consumers are satisfied with product quality. 60% of the consumer agrees that e-retail store provide more affordable e-goods which influence their purchase decision. Along with that 76% of the consumers are satisfied with reasonable pricing strategy.
- In determining the relationship between income level and preference of the consumer towards e-retail store it was found that 52% of the consumer agrees to the fact that income level influences their purchase decision from e-retail stores. Hence there is a direct relationship between the income level and preferences of the consumer.

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SUGGESTIONS

- After the introduction of cashless economy e-retail stores have witnessed drastic change which made the customers the king of the market. But the customers should be careful while making purchase decisions. They should not be carried away by promotional strategy of retailers; they should make proper analysis and make the purchase.
- The major aspects that have been found from this study are that organized retail stores are preferred for their quality, pricing strategy, discounts, offers etc. So the e-retail sectors should concentrate more on improving these aspects.
- E-retail stores also improve their customer relation strategy by implementing some measures.
- India has the maximum population residing in rural area and it is also observed that the consumers are price sensitive. In India there exists a diversified culture. Therefore, a crucial analysis needs to be done of all the environmental needs on a continuous basis by making sufficient opportunities for the people in the rural areas.

CONCLUSION

Retailing provides a crucial link between producers and consumers in the modern market economy. Retail in India is the most dynamic industry and represents a huge opportunity both domestic and international retailers. E-retailing is not a threat to the organized retail stores as most of the consumers told that they never stopped visiting organized retail stores. They strongly agree on the coexistence of both and its requirement in a day. E-retailing is beneficial for India because it is not alarming to create conflict with organized stores but it is the hybrid form which includes all the advantages of organised retailing. Modern Retailing has a long way to go in India. The growth and development of the sector is restricted by the presence of regulatory constraints and lack of confidence of people and lack of technology. Based on our study we conclude that over the next decade the e-retail market has high growth potential and e-retailers would fiercely compete to increase their market share. The study was to identify the attitude and behaviour of customer towards e-retail sectors various attributes of e-retail sites such as price, services, gift hampers and availability of payment modes. Along with this the study was able to assess the level of satisfaction of consumers with the features and services of e-retailing sites, determinant of the customer satisfaction in the e-retail shopping and also to determine the relationship between income level and the preferences of the consumer towards e-retailing. From these it was able to identify various scenarios which would have high impact on the e-retail platform. The firms operating in this area should keep an eye for this development in order to be ready to face and come along with consumers in such scenarios. Furthermore, the present study has been successful to the extent of revealing the key areas where retailers have to concentrate in order to remain ahead of the competition.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- This study is conducted within the Ernakulam region hence the data is constrained within the region.
- The study is conducted within a short period of time.
- Findings of the study cannot be generalized because it is subjective to the person conducting the study.
- The respondents were unwilling or unable to answer certain questions.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is conducted on the "Consumer preferences on e-retail stores with special reference in Ernakulam city" was limited to a few retail stores like flipkart, amazon and snapdeal etc. and few other local stores. This study aims to analyse why consumers choose these e-store and the reason behind their choices, also this study is limited to Ernakulam city.

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