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STUDY ON CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS FROZEN FOOD IN JAMMU CITY OF J & K STATE

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted in Jammu city in which customers were selected at different supermarkets in Jammu city through convenience sampling. The research was conducted with 150 respondents. A likert-scale based schedule was developed & data was collected accordingly. The information from various retail outlets and distributors was collected with the help of structured schedule and the data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics, regression analysis and cross tab analysis to analyze the behavior of consumer regarding frozen foods. The analysis reflects that respondents neither agree nor disagree (median=3.00) to the fact that they often buy frozen foods because of health, safety, price, impulsiveness. This indicates that consumer's attitude is neutral towards frozen foods. It was also found that consumers in Jammu city were neutral towards the pricing of frozen foods.

KEYWORDS

consumer behavior, novelty, impulsiveness, health.

INTRODUCTION

onsumer behaviour is one of the stimulating and challenging areas in marketing studies being a human activity focused on the purchasing, consuming and using of the products and services. Understanding the behaviour of consumer is a great challenge. It involves the psychological processes that consumers go through in recognizing needs, finding ways to solve these needs, making purchase decisions, interpret information, make plans and implement those plans by engaging in comparison shopping or actually purchasing a product. The present study highlighted the determinants of consumer behavior regarding buying decision-making and develops a model to understand their relationship. Food retailing has undergone a drastic change in the last two decades due to substantial industry consolidation, globalization, retail format proliferation, alternative delivery options and threatened profit margins. The most dramatic change is the change in consumer demographics and demand preferences. So, an attempt has been made to analyse the consumers' shopping frequency for food products among different occupations. Further efforts have also been made to know the consumers' attitude towards food product labels and to analyze consumers' perception about food safety.

Food plays a central role in the life of consumers. It is the source of nutrition. It serves a social and cultural function and has considerable economic significance since a major proportion of the household budget is allocated to purchasing food. Yet food consumption behavior has not attracted much systematic attention by consumer behavior researchers. At least part of the difficulty in conducting consumer behavior research in this important area lies in the complexity and the diversity of the influences at work in food choice and consumption and in the fact that such research requires knowledge of the concepts of and insights from a wide range of science and social science disciplines, including food science, nutrition, medicine, psychology, physiology, psychophysics, sociology, economics, marketing, and anthropology.

All of us are consumers: all of us behave. This does not mean that all of our behaviour can be defined as consumer behaviour, of course. Specific consumer behaviour has been defined as follows: Consumer behaviour is the activities people undertake when obtaining, consuming and disposing of products and services. (Blackwell et al. 2001).

Consumer's buying behaviour is also influenced by needs for which the products are purchased (Applebaum, 1951). Housewives would prefer to buy nutritious meal for the family members since most of housewives really concern about the health of their kids. In a family, it requires balancing the family budget, quick cooking time and healthy food ingredients; therefore, their basic need for food is satisfied through affordable convenience and nutritious food (Coughenour, 1972). Thus, forming marketing strategy that fits consumer needs and preferences is vital for the new company to enter the market.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To analyze the behavior of consumer regarding frozen food in Jammu city.
- 2. To analyze the impact of Quality, Price, Novelty, Impulsiveness and Orientation towards consumption of frozen foods on consumer behavior in Jammu city

LITERATURE REVIEW

Solomon (2004) in his study suggested that consumers tend to ask for advice about purchases from people who are knowledgeable about products and whose advice is considered valuable. These people are called opinion leaders. An opinion leader is a person who is frequently able to influence others' attitudes or behavior. Opinion leaders are valuable information sources because they are usually technically competent, they do not represent the interests of the company and they are often among the first to buy new products. He further studied that memory plays an important role in buying decision process.

Myers (2005) in his study observed that the biggest factor contributing to buying behavior in grocery stores was the price and convenience of frozen foods that were preferred over traditional forms of grocery purchase. Even though where prices were lower in those neighborhoods people would tend to buy frozen foods as to the ease of cooking and handling of the product.

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Blackwell et al. (2006) in their study revealed that families or households are consumer units of critical importance in the study of consumer behavior for two reasons. Firstly, many products are purchased by a family or household unit. Secondly, other family members may heavily influence an individual buying decision. Hensen and Traill (1993) in their study stated that access to information is an elementary condition for the functioning of markets. Indeed, manufacturers and retailers are inevitably better informed about the quality of their products than individual consumers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study has adopted convenience sampling technique to conduct the survey among different consumers of Jammu city. A total of 150 sample respondents were selected. The research was conducted with the help of pre-tested structured schedule that incorporated information related to the behavior of the consumer regarding frozen food. The primary data has been collected from the consumers of Jammu city of various retail outlets of frozen food items and secondary data from various sources like: websites, journals and research papers etc. After collection of data from various sources the data has been analyzed using Descriptive statistics, Regression analysis and Cross tab analysis.

REGRESSION ANALYSIS

 $Y = \alpha + \beta x_i$

Or Y = α + β 1(X1) + β 2(X2) + β 3(X3) + β 4(X4) Where Y = Consumer behavior,

X1 = Quality,

X₂ = Novelty,

X3 = Price

X4 = Impulsiveness

Here X3 denotes statements like

Price is not an important criterion for buying frozen food items now compared to earlier period.

CROSS TAB ANALYSIS

The formula for calculating cross tab is as under:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{cells}^{all} \frac{(F_e - F_o)^2}{F_e}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1, includes the descriptive statistics of the various statements. It has been identified that for the statement T, U, V, Y, Z, AA, BB, CC, DD, the median was found to be (3) implying that consumers were neutral regarding these statements. It was further noted that DD statement implied that the customers disagreed it which is clear from its median (3.5). The table 1 makes it clear further that highest standard deviation was found for the statement U (1.054) and lowest in case of statement AA (0.870)

From figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, it was observed that the responses of consumers of frozen food items were neutral meaning that they neither agreed nor disagreed to various statements like T, U, V, Y, Z, AA, BB, CC, DD. Their behavior was neutral to the various statements to the extent of 51.33 per cent (T), 32.67 per cent (U), 36.91 per cent (V), 38.67 per cent (Y), 43.33 per cent (Z), 50.00 per cent (AA), 37.33 per cent (BB), 42.00 per cent (CC) and 40.00 per cent (DD) which was highest among all the responses.

TABLE 1: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR ANALYZING CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

Т	U	V	Y	z	AA	BB	CC	DD
150	150	149	150	150	150	150	150	150
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.5
.925	1.054	1.010	1.046	.937	.870	.896	.949	.916
.855	1.111	1.019	1.095	.878	.757	.803	.901	.839
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

Note*

* T denotes "I often buy frozen food products"

U denotes "I often buy frozen food products for my health"

V denotes "Choosing frozen food products are good for health"

Y denotes "Sometimes I am a bit reckless about what I buy"

Z denotes "Price is not an important criteria for buying frozen food now compared to earlier period"

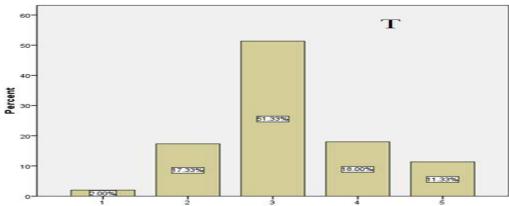
AA denotes "Frozen food contains more vitamins & minerals"

BB denotes "Frozen food products are nutritious"

CC denotes "Frozen food products are safer to eat"

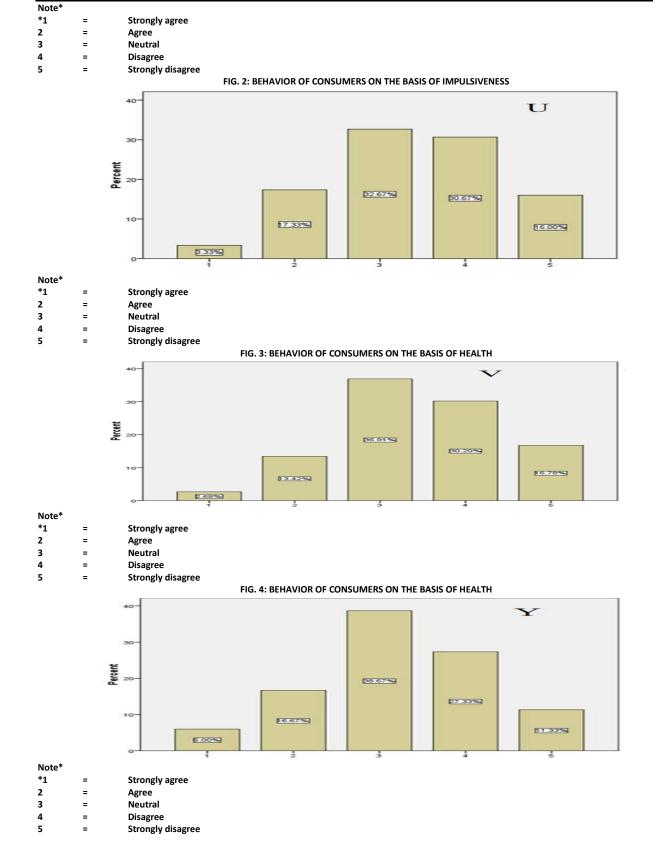
DD denotes "Frozen food can reduce the food poisoning risk"



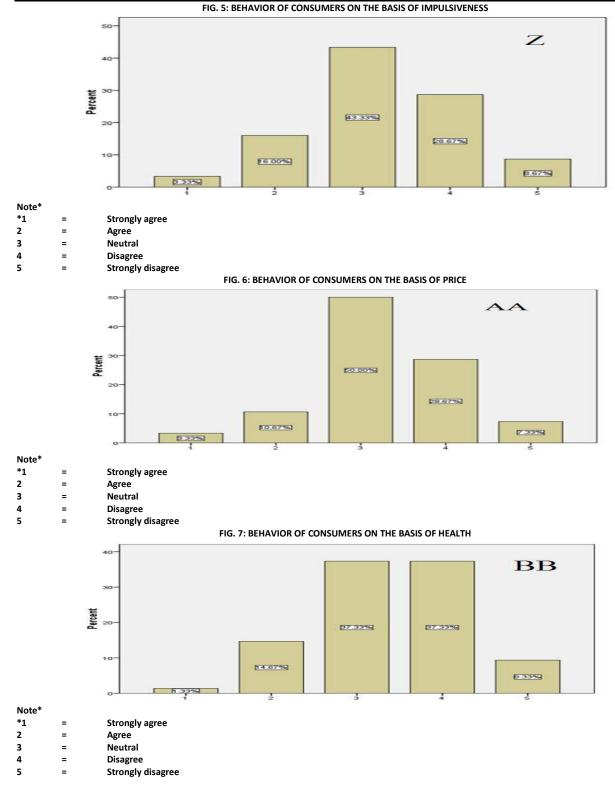


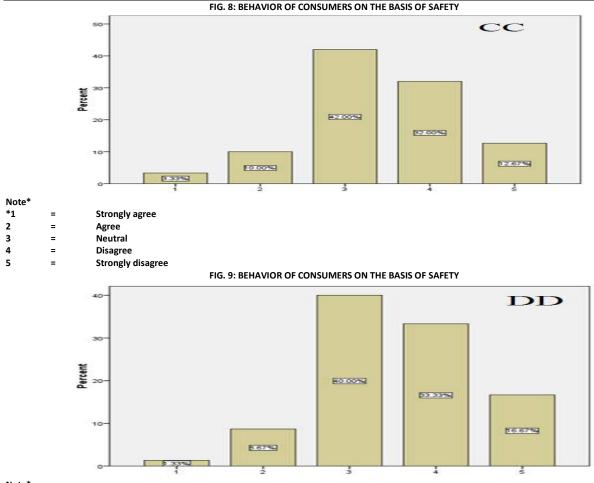
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Note*

*1 = Strongly agree

2 = Agree

3 = Neutral

4 = Disagree 5 = Strongly disagree

A regression analysis is done to explain the variation in one variable (dependent variable), based on variation in one or more other variables (independent variables). In case there is one independent variable to explain the variation in one dependent variable, it is known as simple regression. If there are multiple independent variables to explain the variation in single dependent variables, it is known as a multiple regression model.

The value of correlation coefficient from Table 2 came to be 0.561 indicating that the independent variables show a high level of correlation with the dependent variable. The measure of strength of association in the regression analysis is given by the coefficient of determination denoted by R². This coefficient varies between 0 and 1 and represents the proportion of total variation in the dependent variable that is accounted for by the variation in the factors. From Table 2., the R² value is 0.314 which shows that 31.4 per cent of the variation in Consumer behavior can be explained by the four factors or independent variables in the given analysis. To test the validity of the model, the study incorporated the ANOVA or F test as shown in Table 3. It can be depicted from the statistics that the corresponding F-value appears to be 16.283, which further appears to be statistically significant at 5 per cent level of significance.

From the Table 3, the equation can be written as: Consumer behavior= 1.494 + 0.004 (Quality) + -.034 (Novelty) + 0.198

(Impulsiveness) + 0.388 (Price)

The regression model from the equation has been used to interpret the given result. From the equation it can be inferred that if focus on quality is increased by 1 unit, consumer behavior is estimated to increase by 0.004 assuming all other variables to be constant. It is further being inferred that if novelty is increased by 1 unit, consumer behavior is estimated to decrease by 0.34 assuming all other variables constant. Coming to third factor if impulsiveness is increased by 1 unit, it is estimated that there will be 0.198 increase in consumer behavior assuming all other variables to be constant. Further if price is increased by 1 unit; Consumer behavior is estimated to increase by 0.388 assuming all other variables to be constant.

We also have the *t*-test value for the significance of individual independent variables in the estimated analysis. From the Table 4, we can see that as there have been corresponding *t* values for the relevant coefficients of the estimated equation. These *t* values are used to validate the significance of the associated coefficients for the analyzed results. It can be depicted from the table that the coefficient values of price and impulsiveness the independent variables that are factors of Consumer behavior appears to be statistically significant at 5 per cent level of significance as the estimated *t* values are greater than the tabular values, whereas quality and novelty appears to be statistically insignificant thus it can be concluded that quality and novelty have significant value whereas price and impulsiveness have insignificant value. Furthermore, the p values from the table also confirm for the significance of estimated *t* values.

					Change Statistics				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. Change
1	.561ª	.314	.295	.47466	.314	16.283	4	142	.000

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Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.		
1	Regression	14.674	4	3.669	16.283	.000ª		
	Residual	31.993	142	.225				
	Total	46.667	146					

		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	т	Sig.
	(Constant)	1.494	.312		4.794	.000
	Quality	.004	.050	.005	.074	.941
	Novelty	034	.065	037	520	.604
	Price	.388	.061	.460	6.379	.000
	Impulse	.198	.056	.256	3.553	.001

TABLE 4: SUMMARY STATISTICS OF THE MODEL

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusion reflects that respondents neither agree nor disagree (median=3.00) to the fact that they often buy frozen foods because of health, safety, price, impulsiveness reasons. This indicates that consumer's attitude is neutral towards frozen foods. The analysis of second objective has shown that 31.4 per cent of variation in consumer behavior is explained by quality, price, novelty, impulsiveness. The results indicate that price and impulsiveness have significant impact on consumer behavior (β =0.388, p value=0.000; β =0.198, p value=0.001, respectively), whereas quality and novelty have insignificant impact on consumer behavior (β =0.04, p value=0.941; β = -0.34, p value=0.604, respectively).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To increase the inclination towards frozen food, it has been suggested that the consumers should be provided with information specifying benefits of frozen foods and should also take measures to increase the standards of frozen food.
- To increase the impact of price on the consumer buying behavior, there should be some discounts and schemes on frozen foods items so that the consumers intend to buy more and more frozen food products.

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