INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT



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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESIS (ES)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

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- Bowersox, Donald J., Closs, David J., (1996), "Logistical Management." Tata McGraw, Hill, New Delhi.
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A DETAILED STUDY ON THE VARIOUS FACTORS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENTIATION IN THE SALES PROMOTION PRACTICES AND CRM ACTIVITIES AT SELECT RETAIL OUTLETS IN MYSORE CITY

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ABSTRACT

The promotion of economic activities offered by business to its clients in services marketing has become important in the recent times. Service marketing include the process of selling telecommunications, health treatments, financial, hospitality, car rental, air travel, haircut, counseling by lawyers and professional services. If we take any of the areas mentioned or otherwise, there will be services factor included in this. Some long years back, the service sales promotional factors were only found more evidently in the industrial goods than fast moving consumer goods or perishable items. A few decades back of what customer relationship management used to be for the high involvement products & that which has a low brand differentiation, has now started emerging even in the convenience goods & eatables. The growth in the competition & the technology improvisation has given rise to the demand in the sales promotional factors in more or less for every industry today. The differentiation was a part of the marketing before & also in the present context. But in the present marketing strategy, the organizations have to rely mostly in the way they offer services and sales promotional practices of their products in short & at large to the customers. As one of the popular saying goes "history repeats"- the companies have to sustain the present competition with sales promotional differentiation. The fact that the technology improvement goes hand-in-hand with service aspect is evidently seen in the recent time because of fast changing requirement of customer's expectation and awareness.

KEYWORDS

competitive advantage, customer relationship management e-service, Sales Promotion.

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M30, M31.

INTRODUCTION

he historical perspective in the late-eighties and early-nineties, focused on creation and possession of wealth. Classical marketing executive's contended that goods were objects of value over which ownership rights could be established and exchanged the technology product and create awareness. Ownership implied tangible possession of an object that had been acquired through purchase, barter or gift from the producer or previous owner and was legally identifiable as the property of the current owner. This barter exchange very slowly started with intangible things adding to the product. Services marketing according to "American Marketing Management" is defined as the process of conceptualization of ideas goods & services which create exchange & that satisfy the individual & the organizational goals. India from the larger perspective has been fast changing & an ever growing market or economy. The features that the Indian market is concentrating more are the people, process & the physical evidence which are a very important factor for the success of the organization. The only reason being the ever changing requirement of e-services of retail outlets amongst the customer's requirement & a cut-throat competition. The business at large and more so the marketing activities start with the product, price, place & promotion. These are called the 4 P's or the marketing mix. It is evidently seen that these 4 P's are good for the tangible products but the service sector requires professionalism in terms of the kind of training given to the people (employees), process (fastness) & the physical evidence (brochure), the main reason being the intangibility characteristics in services industry in the initial stages of creating awareness and acceptance in marketing, the organization used to give advertisement & in today's world, no doubt that it is one of the major successful formula, but this might just not be sufficient to have competitive advantage but what is even more required is the. Therefore, the companies would have to concentrate on the kind of training that it imparts to the employees, the fastness in work that it has due to the research conducted and technology so as to show the people with brochure as physical evidence. But for all such requirements, the employees should be benefitted both on the basis of monetary and non-monetary benefits. The other 3 P's actually become important for the competition. As such understanding the minds of the customer is difficult because, customers mind is a black box, cannot find out what's running in the minds of the customers as such. Therefore, it is said in services marketing especially the retail sector, that "instead of being a part of the problem, it is better to be a part of the solution". You should always make the first conversation comfortable so that half the battle is actually won in the beginning. The atmosphere in the retail out let should be comfortable and it should create an atmosphere for the employees to work and help them motivate. Some of the examples are the hospital industry, the hotel industry, insurance sector, manufacturing sector etc., Customer's requirement mainly depends on the literacy level, either from the previous usage & looking for further improvement or from the technology itself. Services have become a part and parcel of every day's ever changing demand and challenge for the organization. Out of the three 3P's one of the angles is that the understanding of the employees towards the job and the job satisfaction is also equally important. The categories mainly depend on the brand differentiation or the involvement. It is like a high involvement product with low differentiation requires the expertise of the company's personnel sensitizing the nuances of its working. The significance of this is so much, without which many of the features in the service sector might not be utilized. Some of the points mentioned as factors are so very important that it never takes the significance due to the characteristic of intangibility. Services are intangible and the commitment of the employees is so important it can reduce the turnover the employees. Often time-based, performances bring about desired results to recipients, objects, or other assets for which purchasers have responsibility and mostly the educated customers. In exchange for money, time, and effort, service customers expect value from access to goods, labor, professional skills, facilities, networks, and systems; but they do not normally take ownership of any of the physical elements involved. This also calls for the developing of interpersonal skills and not only requires training but also re-training and post training intervention of the executives towards the employees. Even though the quality of the services cannot be defined or measured, an attempt should be made to ensure that a tracing of a good and service is provided. The inclusion of information technology in most of the retail outlets has given rise to a quick response, which is important for the customer service. At the same time, there should be a balance between how much of money is being spent on it and also the returns of investment in the current scenario is heading towards cashless transaction, either in the form of straight away the virtual money or it can also be in the form of customer loyalty. Marketing should look towards more of multiplication rather than addition. Even though addition of customers is important in the beginning, attracting the customers through service multiplies. Especially it looks to be evident in the retail industry that information flow that would help the promotional activities is an important element of e-services. That in the present context due to introduction of

the electronic and internet technology has created the awareness along with desire to an extent that the customers have started to find those technologies to be of a great advantage concerned with the time factor. The business has increased in the form of online orders which has given a thrust to the retailers in the form of preference of services which would make the service providers accessibility far easier, the form of rendering the services which is essentially the vital role of the retailers, is generally not found in unorganized retail sector, which they consider it to be a part of service providing. By taking up these kinds of activities, not only the sales promotional activities get included but also the inclusion of customer relationship management.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- 1. The author studies and evaluates relationship between attitudes towards monetary and non monetary incentives with employee motivation at individual level. This study suggests the alternate methods to enhance the effectiveness of traditional incentive schemes. (Nandanwar M.V., Surnis S.V., Nandanwar (L.M. Year: 2010)
- 2. There are few retail sectors where the atmosphere has a major factor for the motivation of employees i.e. employees would just want friendly co-workers and helpful management team. The incentives and salary plays a slightly lower role in such places (Russia, Europe). (Author: Patricia, Huddleston, Year: 2006).
- 3. This paper studies the understanding of employees towards their job satisfaction. The result is said to say that interesting work and good pay are key to higher employee motivation. (Author: James R. Lindner, Year: 2000)
- 4. Porter, L. W., Steers, R. M., Mowday, R. T., & Boulian, P. V. (1974). Organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and turnover among psychiatric technicians. *Journal of applied psychology*, *59*(5), 603.
- 5. Gist, M. E., Stevens, C. K., & Bavetta, A. G. (1991). Effects of self-efficacy and post-training intervention on the acquisition and maintenance of complex interpersonal skills. *Personnel psychology*, 44(4), 837-861.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The importance of this service marketing is because, in the present context of the marketing competitions, the uniqueness of their practices and process has become more evident so that this differentiation could attract the customers to go to the retail outlets in which they would feel comfortable. As the research gap is to make sure that the present process and its working is on the basis of internet technology which is being put to test in the recent time and more than that in the present outbreak of the pandemic situation, the online ordering of the items and goods have increased multiple folds. At least previously, the display in the retail outlets used to attract the customers, but in the present situation, the display has to be done only to show as a physical evidence to the customers. Therefore, the fact that the differentiation in the situation that is prevalent should be considered for the study and hence the analysis so got should give that competitive edge to the retailers.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To evaluate the quality service factor and price in organized retail sector at Mysuru city.
- 2. To assess the demographic factor and consumer behavior in organized retail outlets at Mysuru city.

HYPOTHESIS

There is no significant difference between quality service and the price.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The focus of the research is to expand the knowledge on the current issues through the collection of data which is done on the basis of primary collection. Descriptive study describes the behavior of the sample population and therefore the data collection is done at only few select retail outlets of Mysore city. The variable that is taken for the study is the quality service and the other being the price. A structured questionnaire was prepared and with a defined sample size, it was distributed and the filled questionnaire was recorded in the excel sheet for further process and analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

According to the survey conducted, there can be many factors that are considered to find the satisfaction of the customers to those particular retail outlets, starting from parking of the vehicle to the quantity. Typically, two factors namely the quality service & the price in a small retail outlets located at Mysore is taken for the study & the inference is as follows:

X represents number of people acknowledging for quantity & Y represents price branded commodities in rupees. The data so collected is through questionnaire distributed to the customers in Mysore Karnataka. The same is depicted in the form of a tabular column.

Т	Ά	В	L	E	1

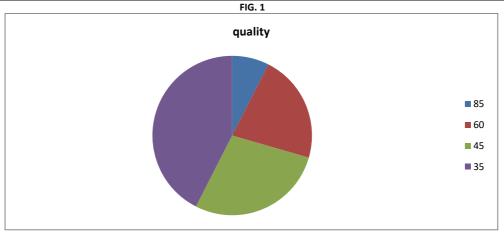
X Value	Y Value	X*Y	X*X	Y*Y
15	85	1275	225	7225
44	60	2640	936	3600
56	45	2520	3136	2025
85	35	2975	7225	1225
200	225	9410	12522	84075

Now, Substitute in the above formula given.

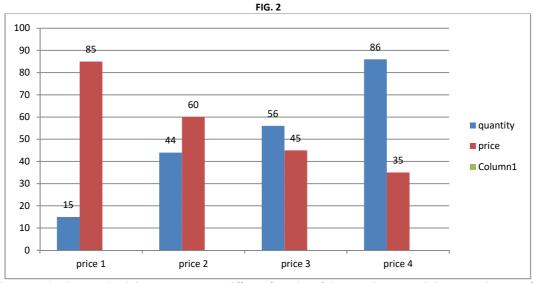
Correlation(r) = $[N\Sigma XY - (\Sigma X)(\Sigma Y) / Sqrt([N\Sigma X^2 - (\Sigma X)^2][N\Sigma Y^2 - (\Sigma Y)^2])]$

- = $((4)*(9410)-(200)*(225))/sqrt([(4)*(12522)-(200)^2]*[(4)*(84075)-(225)^2])$
- = (37640 45000)/sqrt([50088 40000]*[336300 50625])
- = 7360/sqrt-10088*285675
- = -.134

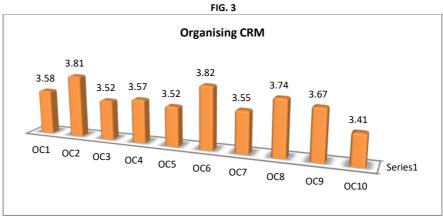
The number above signifies that the quality & price does not have a strong correlation. Further it is that the permutations & combinations of quantity & price would take a deeper study, in the sense that few of the possibilities are one being customers in Mysore are looking at same quantity but may be at a lesser price or another possibility is that, they may be ready to pay little higher but require a much better quality. The negative correlation in the calculation is a far stronger evidence for the same.



The same table is shown in the form of a pie chart. As seen in the pie chart, knowledge of the quality of commodities is known to 85% of the population as such. The survey also tells that the other extreme of 15% are not that quality conscious. This is to infer that the entry of the branded products and in particular to the retail outlets have made a difference in the buying pattern and also made an impact in the minds of the people about the brand conscious.



According to the above Fig., the demographical characteristics are no different from that of the normal consumer behavior. As the price of the commodity increases, immaterial of the quality of goods, the number of customers & the retail outlet preference is definitely selective. If we look at the last histograph, as the price reduced, the number of customer's increase. But as all ways, the quality of the retailers is always questionable even though. As such, in any goods related industry, it is very difficult to measure the justification of the quality of services & for the kind of price that is being paid. If we go little deeper into the subject of retailing, the quality of goods is measured in terms of profitability that is available made through the use of technology. But it is difficult to measure the sales volume. One other factor is that the price of perishable items fluctuates every day which the retailers also depend on the demand in the current scenario & the same cannot be changed in the items of display, so frequently. All that may differ mostly likely is that of the quantity of the food but even that also cannot be changed to such an extent, that it is noticeable. Having an understanding of its inventory, because vegetables being the perishable item, maintaining the consistency is far more a challenging task and many questions turned unanswered. That may be the reason for the graph showing its concentration of quantity and quality at the middle giving indications that, it is value for money. At the same time the correlation analysis shows that a negative relationship between quantity of food to price, meaning the two extremities of price being too high or price being low are not acceptable by the local customers. Elsewhere, the market responses might be different with the graphical structure and behavior also. Therefore, customers here are not looking at quantity & price as a factor for their responses. In any case the service industry as such is quite lucrative and customers might probably be looking for some other factors. These are the indication of the change in the preference of the customers & the industry or the individual's business houses should react, so does the likes and preferences. Few more cases for support the sales promotional activities and their Customer relationship management activities taken are depending on the local factors and little degree of freedom for adaptability



The above Fig. represents Organising CRM as one among the performance dimension of CRM. From the Fig. it is found that the variables like Chats and e-mail to keep customers record on real time, integration is social medias like Facebook, Instagram, regular updates on Marketing campaign activities, easy access of executives on system upgrades determine managing knowledge among the retailers. This graph is the output of the customer relationship management showing the mean of the population who have knowledge about the sales promotional activities taken up by the retailers, though it does not reflect straight on the customer relationship management, it definitely has a direction showing the development towards CRM. As such sales promotion is done keeping in mind the coming back of the customers to the same retail outlets. Ultimately every organization looks at making sales volume as their priority and thereby the profitability.

FINDINGS

- 1. It is found that customers are becoming more conscious than before on the basis of the quality and the price they are paying for the services, though it is slightly higher for the quality services
- 2. Presently, customers are looking for better and more variety of product and product lines with the retailers and their preference on these variety products have increased substantially.
- 3. It is still found that the customers are cautious about the price factor and they don't like to spend much on the premium products, it might be because of the tier-II city socio-cultural background.
- 4. The promotional activities and the point of purchase display though not significant in a place like Mysore, an attempt is made by the retailers to keep the articles which would look attractive.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ SUGGESTIONS

- 1. The differentiation that is made in the sales promotion can be enhanced to a much better and newer methods that suits the present generations preference like a sudden announcement of discount sales in a particular duration of time
- 2. The significance of the cultural/ festival projections at the entrance of the retail outlets and their promotional activities for that particular festive, will ensure the sales of certain goods in those seasons.
- 3. More of online-line promotional activities should be taken for both the display of the products and also the order processing's, so that customers who are unable to visit the retail outlets are also aware of the availability of those variety of products
- 4. The frequency of these redeemable coupons can be increased in its promotions so that the customers visit to the outlets will also be frequent and thereby will enhance the sales of the products which would instill the impulsive buying behavior also.

CONCLUSION

The increase in the professionalism and a good education in almost every sector & especially the service sector has become so competitive, that unless otherwise, these features are added to the core working pattern, the success of the company will be at stake. The pattern of service emerging from this industry is in transition phase & will take some concrete shape in the days to come. Some of the organizations like the café coffee day has trained employees to treat the customers with salutation in the beginning because the punch line of CCD itself is "lot can happen over a cup of coffee", this is one such instance where, the important meeting of business people takes place & thereby the channelizing of the same customers coming back to the shop also increases. In turn this helps in developing customer relationship management (CRM). In today's perspective, the companies are fighting hard to develop the loyalty of customers. At this point in time, it becomes even more important for the organizations to make the customers feel that "they are the king". By doing so, not only the loyalty increases but also the brand image of the organization also builds up. The indications at least now seem more clear that the service factor simply cannot be neglected but somewhere a thin line has to be draw to ensure that marketing activities & operational factors have balance that is presently required. May be in the initial stages of marketing of what we call it to be the primitive age, the service factors such as installation, maintenance etc. were given less importance. But as and when the times passed, it started becoming clearer that the service factors such as installation, maintenance etc. were given less importance. But as and when the times passed, it started becoming clearer that the service factors such as installation, maintenance etc. were given less importance. But as and when the times passed, it started becoming clearer that the service factors such as installation, maintenance etc. were given less importance. But

LIMITATIONS

The prior studies regarding the sales promotion and the customer relationship management in Mysore city has not been conducted and therefore, not much of the literature reviews were available, and that's the reason, generic reviews related to sales promotion and customer relationship management is considered for the study.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The study extents to the marketing area and as such it explores the study to specific parameters like quality service and price. Again between these two parameters, one of the other areas that get covered is the differentiation. When the competition becomes high, there should be differentiation in every step the organization thinks and that is how the customers distinguish the retailers and in turn makes the business possible so that the retailers are benefitted.

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