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HYPOTHESES

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A STUDY ON CONSUMER BRAND PREFERENCE TOWARDS HEALTH DRINK PRODUCTS IN TIRUVARUR DISTRICT (TN)

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ABSTRACT

In the competitive environment, marketers are finding it difficult to create and retain customers for their products. Health Food Drink products have entered the global markets with force in the past years and rapidly gained market share. The basic purpose of this research paper is to identify the various factors influencing for preferring their brands. Paper also attempts to determine the sources of awareness and level of satisfaction of the consumers. To develop conclusions exploratory and descriptive research designs are used. Primary data is collected with the help of questionnaire method and data is analyzed with the help of various statistical techniques. It also showed that 31.81% of the consumers preferred Horlicks more than other brands of Health Drink Products. The major reason for brand preference is advertisement (32.72%). High preference for advertisement is highlighted for the companies to increase their market share.

KEYWORDS

Brand preference, HFD market, Consumer satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

onsumer is the king in modern marketing world. Consumer behavior and attitude helps to determine effective technique and strategies by the marketers for attaining great competition advantage in the market. In the modern competitive world people must do heavy work both mentally and physically to survive successfully. So that they required more energy and stamina for that they want nutritious and health drinks.

Health is man's precious possession. It influences all his activities and shapes his destiny. An understanding of health is the basis of all health care. Health is wealth. This indicates the importance of health. In fact, health is a key to education, success, good citizenship and happy life. Without good health an individual cannot perform efficiently. A healthy individual is like a pillar of a society. The health of an individual by keeping himself free from disease helps in stopping the spread of disease in one's own community and the society at large.

BRAND PREFERENCE

The word "brand" owes its origin to the Norwegian word "brandr" meaning to burn. According to *American Marketing Association*, a brand is "a name, term, sign, symbol or design or a combination of them, intended to identify the goods and services of one seller or a group of sellers and differentiate them from those of competitors". Today, brands function as valuable marks of trust, superior quality, positive equity associations and differentiating values. Brands have been building customer loyalty, competitive advantage and positive benefit perceptions for their corporate owners. Corporate owners brand strategy and tactics are typically based on an understanding of how consumer brand choice behavior is influenced by marketing factors, such as quality, price, innovation, creativity, design, packaging and advertisements.

A brand preference is a measure of brand loyalty in which a consumer will choose a particular brand in presence of competing, but will accept substitutes if that brand is not available. Brand preference is the stage of brand loyalty at which a buyer will select a particular brand but will choose a competitor's brand if the preferred brand is unavailable.

HEALTH DRINK PRODUCTS

India, the world's largest malt-based drinks market, accounts for 22% of the world's retail volume sales. These drinks are traditionally consumed as milk substitutes and marketed as a nutritious drink, mainly consumed by the old, the young and the sick. The Health Food Drinks category consists of white drinks and brown drinks. South and East India are large markets for these drinks, accounting for the largest proportion of all India sales. The total market is placed at about 90,000 ton and is estimated to be growing at about 4%. These Malt beverages, though, are still an urban phenomenon.

White drinks account for almost two-thirds of the market. GSK Consumer Healthcare is the market leader in the white malt beverages category with a 60.7% overall market share. Heinz's Complan comes in second with a market share of 12-13%. Market leader GSK also owns other brands such as Boost, Maltova and Viva.

Currently, brown drinks (which are cocoa-based) continue to grow at the expense of white drinks like Horlicks and Complan. The share of the brown drinks has increased from about 32% to 35% over the last five years. Cadbury's Bournvita is the leader in the brown drink segment with a market share of around 17%. Other significant players are Nestle's Milo and GCMMF's Nutramul.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To study the factors which are influencing brand preference for different brands.
- 2. To study the influence of gender on consumer preference for health drinks.
- 3. To study the influence of income on consumer preference for health drinks

HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

The paper tested the following hypothesis:

- 1. There is no significant difference between the income of the respondents and brand preference.
- 2. There is no significant difference between the gender and brand preference.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design for the study is descriptive. Consumers of various age groups have been interviewed for the research survey using a structural Questionnaire

SAMPLING DESIGN AND SAMPLE SIZE

Sampling technique used for the study was convenience sampling and the sample size was 110. The research instrument used was a questionnaire and it comprised of both open and close-ended questions. Personal interview was conducted among the target respondents using the questionnaire.

TOOLS USED FOR THE STUDY

Percentage analysis and Chi-Square test were used to analyze the data.

DATA ANALYSIS

TABLE 1: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS IN TIRUVARUR

S.No.		Factors	Frequency	Percent
1	Sex	Male	67	60.91
		Female	43	39.09
		Total	110	100.0
2	Age of the respondents	Upto 30	58	52.73
	(in years)	31-40	25	22.73
		41-50	15	13.64
		50&Above	12	10.90
		Total	110	100.0
3	Education	SSLC	17	15.45
		HSC	10	9.1
		Graduate	42	38.18
		Post Graduate	33	30.00
		Others	8	7.27
		Total	110	100.0
4	Occupation	Government Employee	31	28.18
		Private Employee	41	37.27
		Professional	16	14.55
		Businessman	10	9.1
		Housewife	12	10.90
		Total	110	100.0
5	Monthly income of	Less than 10,000	28	25.45
	The respondents (in Rs.)	10,001-20,000	35	31.81
		20,001-30,000	22	20.00
		30,001-40,000	15	13.64
		40,000 & Above	10	9.1
		Total	110	100.0

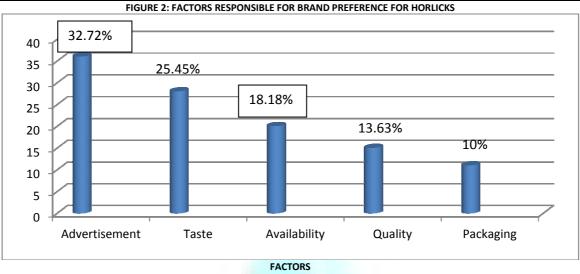
Source: Primary Data

The Table 1 depicts socio-Economic conditions of the respondents. 60.91% of the respondents were male & rests were female. It also contains out of 110 respondents. 28 belonged to the income category of less than 10,000 per month, 35 respondents belonged to the income category of Rs. 10001-20000 per month, 22 respondents belonged to the category of Rs.20001-30000 per month, 15 respondents belonged to the category of Rs.30001-40000 per month and 10 respondents belonged to the income category of more than Rs.40000.

FIGURE 1: CONSUMERS' BRAND PREFERENCE FOR HEALTH DRINK PRODUCTS **Consumers' Brand Preference for Health Drinks** 35 % 30 23.64% 25 Frequency 19.09% 20 15 10 5 27% 0 Horlicks **Boost** Complan Bournvita Milo Viva

BRANDS

According to Figure 1, out of six most preferred brands (Horlicks, Boost, Bournvita, Complan, Milo and Viva), three brands (Horlicks 31.82%, Boost 23.63% and Complan 19.09%) made up about 73% of then brand preference of consumers. It also reveals that Horlicks is the most preferred brand.



According to Figure 2, the various reasons for brand preference were asked and responses (Advertisement 32.72%, Taste 25.45%, Availability 18.18%, Quality 13.63% and Packaging 10%) Show the high impact of advertisement and taste on brand preference for Horlicks.

TABLE 2: CHI-SQUARE TEST: BRAND PREFERENCE OF HEALTH DRINKS BRAND BASED ON CONSUMERS' INCOME

Income Group		Brand Preference T					
	Horlicks	Boost	Complan	Bournvita	Milo	Viva	,,
Less than 10000	10	8	5	2	2	1	28
	(8.90)	(6.62)	(5.34)	(3.82)	(2.04)	(1.27)	
10001-20000	15	6	7	3	3	1	35
	(11.14)	(8027)	(6.68)	(4.77)	(2.54)	(1.59)	
20001-30000	5	6	6	3	1	1	22
	(7)	(5.2)	(4.2)	(3)	(1.6)	(1)	
30001-40000	3	5	2	3	1	1	15
	(4.77)	(3.54)	(2.86)	(2.04)	(1.09)	(0.68)	
40000 & Above	2	1	1	4	1	1	10
	(3.18)	(2.36)	(1.90)	(1.36)	(0.73)	(0.45)	
Total	35	26	21	15	8	5	110

Source: Primary Data

Level of significance : 5% level of significance Degrees of Freedom = (r-1) (c-1)

= (5-1) (6-1) = 20

Calculated Chi-Square value = 15.626 Table value = 31.410

As Chi-Square test statistic showed in Table 3, for 20 DF (Degree of Freedom) at 5% significance level, calculated value of X² is much less than the table value, so the data support the hypothesis. Hence We conclude that, there is no significant relationship between income of the respondents and brand preference.

TABLE 3: CHI-SQUARE TEST: BRAND PREFERENCE FOR HEALTH DRINK BRANDS BASED ON GENDER

	Brand Preference						
Gender	Horlicks	Boost	Complan	Bournvita	Milo	Viva	Total
Male	18	16	13	9	5	3	64
	(20.36)	(15.13)	(12.29)	(8.73)	(4.65)	(2.91)	
Female	17	10	8	6	3	2	46
	(14.64)	(10.87)	(8.78)	(6.27)	(3.34)	(2.09)	
Total	35	26	21	15	8	5	110

Source: Primary Data

Level of Significance: 5% level of significance Degrees of Freedom

= (r-1) (c-1)= (2-1) (6-1)

= 5

Calculated Chi-Square value = 0.966

= 12.592

As chi-square test statistic showed in Table 5, for 5 DF (Degree of Freedom) at 5% significance level, calculated value of X² is lower than the table value, so the data support the hypothesis. Hence we conclude that, there is no significant relationship between gender of the respondents and brand preference.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Chances of the respondents' bias are involved in the research. As the research is restricted to Tiruvarur town of Tamil Nadu, the results are not applicable to other parts of the District or State or Country.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The collected data from the survey shows that brand preference exists in the health drink products market. Out of 6 different health drink brands which featured in this study, Horlicks topped the brand preference table in health drinks industry. Hence it is clear that Horlicks is the favorite health drinks among consumers.

- 2. The findings of the study of customer brand preference in health drinks states that among all six brands i.e., Horlicks, Boost, Complan, Bournvita, Milo and Viva; the brand at first place is Horlicks with the largest market share 31.82%, Boost is at the second place with the 23.63% market share, Complan is at the third place with the 19.09% market share and Bournvita, Milo and Viva are the fourth, fifth and sixth place respectively with the 13.63%, 7.27% and 4.54% market share.
- 3. The study shows that advertisement and taste are the major factors responsible for the success of Horlicks. The implication of this is that, other variables does not influence to prefer the horlicks brand.
- 4. In the analysis, according to Table (2), the chi-square test shows that the there is no significant relationship between income of the respondents and brand preference. In Table (3), the chi-square test shows a there is no significant relationship between gender of the respondents and brand preference.

CONCLUSION

All people, whether young or old, they take health drinks for relaxation, refreshment and to get energy. Thus health drinks have become part and parcel of their lives. Marketing strategy may give special emphasis on a few elements of marketing mix. Certain key elements having superior selling edge will have special emphasis e.g., personalized selling and serving, fine product quality, best value for money, economy, lowest price, wide distribution network, etc. so the company needs to be very vigilant in monitoring to determine the type of marketing strategies based on the taste and preference of the consumers. Advertisement and taste have major influence on consumers' preference for Horlicks. Concerning the advertising media, the study revealed that Television is the most effective media used for advertising the brand. Horlicks can employ integrated advertising of their products.

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