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A STUDY ON CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR IN SELECTING CREDIT CARDS

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ABSTRACT

This is a report on research into consumer behaviour in selecting credit cards it covers the credit card holder's expectation and preference towards selected banks. During the last one decade, there has been an exponential growth in the issue of credit cards and their usage. Today the Indian population feels that a wallet without a card is empty. In the early stages its growth was very slow in terms of numbers and values however in the recent past, the scenario has changed. The number of nationalized and private banks issuing credit cards has increased significantly and credit cards has now become an integral —part of consumer's life. The article suggests the bankers to offer more schemes providing benefit to all income level people. It should take necessary steps to popularize the schemes in rural areas. Customer care services should be improved. The outcomes of research in consumer behaviour gave the preference for brand name and loyalty for selecting credit cards.

KEYWORDS

Credit cards, consumer, bank, behavior, loyalty.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

ver the past few decades, there has been a notable change in consumer financial services. This has opened the door to usage of credit cards, both for payments and as sources of revolving credit. A credit card is part of a system of payments named after the small plastic card issued to users of the system. Most credit cards are issued by local banks or credit unions, and are the same shape and size as specified by the ISO7810. A credit card is basically plastic card with a magnetic strip invented with the intention to simplify the complicated banking process for an individual in case he/she is short of cash, be it something casual like shopping or something severe like an emergency situation.

Various banks and private financial organization have now started providing credit card facility to their client to offer them better and simpler financial solution to their problems. Many credit card programs these days also include insurance coverage to secure the card holder in cases like theft or fraud.

Every banking and other financial institution has its own company policies and conditions regarding the credit limit as well as the time allowed to pay it back. Both secured and unsecured types of credit cards are issued by the various lender companies and it is your choice on which one you want to opt for. Sometimes, it also depends on your credit rating. It is to buy first and pay later, but paying it back later is a must or you may never come to know when you get trapped in the vicious circle of credit card depts.

Credits cards arrived in India two decades ago Purchases were made on credit, but it was technically a charge card, meaning the bill to be paid in full at the end of each month.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

- The study covers the credit card holder's expectation and preference towards selected banks in Coimbatore city.
- It covers their grievances and the manner of redressal of complaints.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Almost all the banks have issued credit cards to the people. Credit cards have been possessed by a large segment of our society. Hence, there arises a need to study the consumer behavior of users of credit cards with various levels. The study is based on the opinion expressed by the respondents which is subject to change. Here, the researchers aim to probe into the reason for possession of cards and the level of selecting credit cards.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- > To study the consumer's behavior in selecting the credit cards.
- To study about the consumer satisfaction on credit card services.
- > To study the consumer, preference and convenience to operate credit card.
- To study the utility of credit card among card holders.
- To give the suggestions on the basis of the study.

HYPOTHESIS

Ho: Brand name, Personal recommendation, Loyalty points all have same rankings in selecting credit cards

H1: Brand name, Personal recommendation, Loyalty points all do not have same rankings in selecting credit cards

 $\textbf{Ho:} \ \ \textbf{The factor analysis is not valid}$

H1: The factor analysis is valid

METHODLOGY

The study is intended to analyze customer's behavior towards selecting credit cards.

SAMPLING DESIGN

The study is based on primary data collected with the help of structural questionnaire; the data was collected from 300 respondents, who are using credit cards in Coimbatore city. Secondary information is collected from books, published magazines and various dissertation and their studies.

STATISTICAL TOOLS USED

The collected data had been analyzed by using:

a) Percentage analysis b) Friedman's test c) Factor analysis

CREDIT CARDS-AN OVERVIEW

WHAT IS CREDIT CARD?

The dictionary defines a credit card as 'A card which can be used to obtain cash, goods or services up to a stipulated credit limit. The supplier is later paid by the credit card company which in due course is reimbursed by the credit card holder who will be charged interest at the end of the credit period if money is still owing.'

Everyone carries a credit card these days. A credit card is basically plastic card with a magnetic strip invented with the intention to simplify the complicated banking process for an individual in case he/she is short of cash, be it something casual like shopping or something severe like an emergency situation.

THE HISTORY OF CREDIT CARDS

As far back as the late 1800s, consumers and merchants exchanged good through the concept of credit, using credit coins and charge plates as currency. It wasn't until about half a century ago that plastic payments as we know them today become a way of life. In the early 1900s, oil companies and department stories issued their own proprietary cards, according to Stan Sienkiewicz, in a paper for the Philadelphia federal entitled "credit cards and payment efficiency". The first bank card, named "chard-it", was introduced in 1946 by john Baggins, a banker in brooking, according to Master card. When a consumer used it for a purchase, the bill was forwarded to Baggins' bank. The bank reimbursed the merchant and obtained payment from the customer. The catches: purchase could only be made locally, and Charge-it cardholders had to have an account at Baggins' bank. In 1951, the first bank credit card appeared in New York's Franklin National Bank for loan customers. It also could be used only by the bank's account holders. By 1951, there were 20,000 Diners Club cardholders. A decade later, the card was replaced with plastic. Diners Club Card. No doubt that after almost a decade of existence, credit cards has finally carved a niche for themselves in the Indian market.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE NO-1 GENERAL PROFILE OF THE CARD HOLDERS

Factors	Classifications	No. of respondents	Percentage
	Below 25 years	150	50
Age	26 to 35 years	70	23.3
	36 to 45 years	70	23.3
	Above 60 years	10	3.3
Gender	Male	180	60
	Female	120	40
Educational Qualification	School level	40	13.3
	Diploma	40	13.3
	Degree	140	46.7
	Post graduate	80	26.7
Occupation	Student	50	16.7
	Employed	110	36.7
	Profession	40	13.3
	Business	100	33.3
Marital Status	Married	140	46.7
	Unmarried	160	53.3
Family Size	Below 3 members	50	16.7
	3 to 5 members	150	50
	5 to 7 members	80	26.7
	Above 7 members	20	6.7
Monthly Income	Below 5000	70	23.3
	5000 to 10000	170	56.7
	1000 to 15000	50	16.7
	Above 15000	10	3.3

INFERENCE

Reference to the personal profile of the customers in the above table shows that 50% respondents belong to the age of the group of below 25 years, 60% of the respondents belong to the Male category, 46.7% of the respondents are degree holders, 36.7% of the respondents are employed, 53.3% of the respondents are single, 50% of the respondents belong to family size of 3 to 5 members, 56.7% of the respondents are in the income group Rs.5000 to Rs.10000.

TABLE NO-2 BANK ACCOUNT

	SNO	BANK ACCOUNT	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
ī	1	Nationalized Banks	170	56.7
	2	Private Banks	90	30
	3	Schedule Banks	40	13.3
		TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

It is understood from the above table that 56.7% of the respondents have bank account in nationalized banks, 30% of the respondents have account in Private Banks, and 13.3% of the respondents have account in Scheduled banks. Majority of the respondents are having account in nationalized banks.

TABLE NO-3 CLASSIFICATION BASED ON NATURE OF BANK ACCOUNT

SNO	TYPE OF BANK ACCOUNT	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Fixed account	50	16.7
2	Saving account	170	56.7
3	Current account	50	16.7
4	Recurring account	30	10
	TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

The above table represents that 16.7% of the respondents maintain fixed account, 56.7% of the respondents maintain savings account, 16.7% of the respondents maintain current account, 10% of the respondents maintain recurring deposit. Majority of the respondents maintain saving account in banks.

TABLE NO-4 NUMBER OF CREDIT CARDS

SNO	NO OF CREDIT CARDS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	One	210	70
2	Two	50	16.7
3	Three	20	6.7
4	Above four	20	6.7
	TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

The above table shows the number of credit cards owned by the respondents 70% of total respondents own one credit card, 16.7% of the respondents own two credit cards, 6.7% of the respondents own three credit cards. Majority of the respondents are using only one credit card.

TABLE NO-5 CLASSIFICATION BASED ON BASIS OF BANKS

SNO	BANK OF CREDIT CARDS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	State bank of India	130	43.3
2	Indian bank	50	16.7
3	ICICI Bank	60	20
4	Any other specify	60	20
	TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

The above table states about the banks in which the respondents have their credit cards. 43.3% of the respondents belong to State bank of India, 16.7% of the respondents belong to Indian bank, 20% of the respondents belong to ICICI bank, and 20% of the respondents belong to any other. Majority of the respondents are the customers of State Bank of India

TABLE NO-6 PERIOD OF USAGE OF CREDIT CARDS

SNO	TIMING	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 1 Yrs	130	43.3
2	1 to 3 Yrs	120	40
3	3 to 6 Yrs	30	10
4	Above 6 Yrs	20	6.7
	TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

The above table shows the period of usage of credit cards 43.3% of the respondents use credit cards below 1 year, 40% of the respondents use credit respondents the period of 1 to 3 yrs, 10% of the respondents use card of 3 to 6 yrs, 6.7% of the respondents use the card for above 6 years Majority of the respondents use the card of below 1 year.

TABLE NO-7 PERIODICAL USAGE OF CREDIT CARDS

SNO	PERIOD	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Daily	40	13.3
2	Weekly	30	10
3	Monthly	60	20
4	Whenever necessary	170	56.7
	TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

The above table represent the periodical usage of credit cards 13.3% of them, belong daily usage group, 10% of the respondents belong to Weekly usage, 20% of the respondents belong to Monthly usage, 56.7% of the respondents belong necessity usage group.

TABLE NO-8 RESPONDENTS SATISFACTION

SNO	SATISFATION	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Yes	300	100
2	No	0	0
	TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

The above table represents the respondent's satisfaction of credit cards 100% of the respondents are satisfied with the credit cards. All the respondents are satisfied with the credit cards

TABLE NO-9 CREDIT CARDS USAGE

SNO	OPINION	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	24 hours usage	40	13.3
2	Emergency	40	13.3
3	Time saving	120	40
4	Safety & Security	100	33.3
	TOTAL	300	100

INFERENCE

The above table represents the total respondents 13.3% of them use 24 hours, 13.3% of the respondents use only during emergency, 40% of the respondents use for time saving, 33.3% of the respondents use card for Safety & Security. Majority of the respondents use credit cards for saving time, safety & security

FRIEDMAN RANK TEST

The Friedman test ranks the scores in each row of the data file independently of every other row. The Friedman chi-square tests the null hypothesis that the ranks of the variables do not differ from their expected value. For a constant sample size, the higher the value of this chi-square statistic, the larger the difference between each variables rank sum and its expected value.

TABLE 10: FRIEDMAN RANK TEST - MEAN RANK FOR SELECTION OF CREDIT CARDS

S.NO.	PREFERENCE OF CREDIT CARDS	MEAN RANK
1	Brand name	2.81
2	Personal recommendation	2.94
3	Loyalty points	3.19

RESULT

The table 10 lists the mean rank of each variable. Low rank corresponds to the higher values of the variables. Here reason for selection of credit cards as "Brand name" and "Personal recommendation" has lower values than the other variables with the mean rank of 2.81 and 2.94 respectively. "Loyalty points" has larger values than the other variables with the mean rank of 3.19. Here respondents gave the preference for brand name for selecting credit cards.

TABLE 11: FRIEDMAN TEST

No of respondents	300
Calculated value	71.336
Df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.000

RESULT

The table 11 lists the result of the Friedman test. For these rankings, the chi-square value is 71.336; Degree of freedom is equal to the number of values minus 1. As 3 purchasing options are ranked, there are 5 degrees of freedom. It is clear that the significance level is 0.000 at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence the hypothesis is rejected. At least one of the variables differs from the others.

FACTOR ANALYSIS

Factor Analysis is a set of technique by which analyzing correlations between variables reduces their numbers into fewer factors which explain much of the original data, more economically.

TABLE 12: KMO AND BARTLETTS TEST

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy - 0.538			
Bartlett's test of sphericity	Approx Chi-Square	71.336	
	Df	66	
	Sig.	.000	

TABLE 13: LOADING OF FACTORS FOR SELECTING CREDIT CARDS MEASUREMENT SCALE ITEMS ON EXTRACTED FACTORS

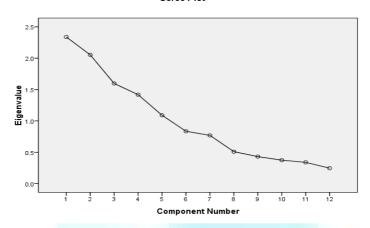
S.NO.	Variables	Factor I	Factor II	Factor III	Factor IV	Factor V
X1	Good customer care	.540	.075	.380	.094	.020
Χ²	Time while transacting	605	.509	.328	.279	078
Χ³	Security while transaction	.667	.272	340	029	.159
Χ ⁴	Insurance benefits	169	788	303	035	032
Χ ⁵	Online operating facilities	178	507	.351	.475	038
X ⁶	Flexible repayment period	.057	429	.314	526	.495
X ⁷	Balance transfer rate	134	.203	578	216	.465
X ⁸	Monthly service charges	556	.278	157	.348	.538
X ⁹	Low interest rate	.449	.098	280	.668	.134
X ¹⁰	Repayment period	.287	.271	.690	.044	.429
X ¹¹	Cash back bonus	.708	286	015	.373	-071
X ¹²	Personal schemes	.245	.607	051	.268	312
	Eigan values	2.334	2.058	1.597	1.418	1.090
	Variance (in %)	19.481	17.111	13.308	11.814	9.082
	Cumulative Eigan values	19.481	36.592	49.900	61.714	70.796
	(in %)					

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

TABLE 14: COMMUNALITIES

S.NO.	Variables	Initial	Extraction (C ²)
X¹	Good customer care	1.000	.451
X ²	Time while transaction	1.000	.816
Χ³	Security while transaction	1.000	.661
Χ ⁴	Insurance benefits	1.000	.743
X ⁵	Online operating facility	1.000	.640
X^6	Flexible repayment rate	1.000	.808
X ⁷	Balance transfer rates	1.000	.656
X ⁸	Monthly service charges	1.000	.821
X ⁹	Low interest rate	1.000	.754
X ¹⁰	Repayment period	1.000	.818
X ¹¹	Cash back bonus	1.000	.727
X ¹²	Personal scheme	1.000	.601

Scree Plot



RESULT

The table no. 12 represents, two tests namely, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO) & Bartlett's Test of Sphericity have been applied to test whether the relationship among the variables has been significant or not.The values of approximate chi-square by Bartlett's test of Sphericity with 66 degree of freedom, which is found to be 71.336. Since this value is significant at the 0.05, so reject the null hypothesis that the population correlation matrix is an identity matrix. This means that there exist correlations among the variables X¹, X²X¹² The value of KMO is found to be 0.538 which is more than 0.5. So, factor analysis is an appropriate technique to analyze the data.

The scree plot is the diagrammatic representation of the total variance explained based on the variance in the Eigen values of the fifteen components using Principal Component Analysis. This chart states the high influence of the one factor based on their Eigen value is greater than one.

FINDINGS

- 50% respondents belong to the age of the group of below 25 years, 60% of the respondents belong to the Male category, 46.7% of the respondents are degree holders, 36.7% of the respondents are employed, 53.3% of the respondents are single, 50% of the respondents belong to family size of 3 to 5 members, 56.7% of the respondents are in the income group Rs.5000 to Rs.10000.
- (56.7%) of the respondents are having account in nationalized banks.
- (56.7%) of the respondents maintain saving account in banks.
- 70% of total respondents own one credit card.
- (43.3%) of the respondents are the customers of State Bank of India
- Majority of the respondents use the card of below 1 year.
- 56.7% of the respondents belong necessity usage group.
- All the respondents are satisfied with the credit cards
- (33.3%) . Majority of the respondents use credit cards for saving time, safety & security
- "Loyalty points" has larger values than the other variables with the mean rank of 3.19. Here respondents gave the preference for brand name for selecting credit cards.
- The values of approximate chi-square by Bartlett's test of Sphericity with 66 degree of freedom, which is found to be 71.336. Since this value is significant at the 0.05, so reject the null hypothesis that the population correlation matrix is an identity matrix. This means that there exist correlations among the variables X¹, X²X¹² The value of KMO is found to be 0.538 which is more than 0.5. So, factor analysis is an appropriate technique to analyze the data. It shows the factors loadings of factors influenced by credit cards purchase.

SUGGESTIONS

- The credit card should offer more schemes providing benefit to all income level people.
- Banks should take necessary steps to popularize the schemes in rural areas.
- Special schemes should be provided to the credit card holders.
- Bank should have regular communication with the card holders.
- * The customers should clearly be informed about the pros and cons of the credit cards etc.
- Proper review of the customers helps to avoid various problems like late fees, misuse of credit cards etc.
- Special offers and discounts should be provided during festive seasons.
- Customer care services should be improved.

- Necessary actions should be taken to rectify the errors in the statements.
- Proper redressal measures should be taken to process customer complaints

CONCLUSION

The study shows that there are many factors which influence the selection of credit card among consumers. These factors include service offers and promotional offers. These factors were aimed at studying the selection of credit cards. Understanding the factors that explain consumer buying behavior of credit card. Users help in providing essential insights into strategy of financial services, retailers and business. Knowledge of these factors also helps in promoting the use of credit cards. Moreover the consumer credit card market in India. Stage and so, the industry must endeavor to develop marketing strategies that appeal to the changing customer needs in order to promote the usage of credit cards.

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