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## **CREDIT CARDS AND ITS IMPACT ON BUYING BEHAVIOUR: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO RURAL MARKET**

## P.MANIVANNAN HEAD DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE SECRETARYSHIP RKM VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE MYLAPORE

### ABSTRACT

The launching of credit card is indeed one step future in meeting the social objectives expected of today's banking. It is treated as a status symbol and as a vehicle of consumerism, India banks spurned this business till recently as did not go along very well with the spirit of authority and saving which they were expected to promote. But with increasing economic and financial liberalization and growing prosperity of the urban middle class, banks feel it desirable to enter this line of business. As of now, so many banks are in the field besides the non-banking institutions. In India almost major banks are issuing the credit card. Initially, the credit card was created to help the customers for their local small purchases to the merchants. Late on, credit card has become predominant, the means for consumer to obtain goods and services. In this background this article is designed to test the impact of credit card on buying behavior in general and customers from rural market in particular.

### **KEYWORDS**

Credit Cards, Rural Market.

### INTRODUCTION



hirty years ago people paid by cheque or cash, for their purchases. They did not have an alternative until payment cards entered the market. Payment cards over these 3 decades have become an integral part of our lives and economy. The possibilities are amazing it can be used for travel, food and commodities or simply cash. Today owning a payment card opens up a whole new world of opportunities.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives set out below promoted to undertake the study.

- To understand the conceptual framework of credit cards.
- To explore the various areas of usage.
- To know the opinion of the respondents about credit cards.
- To study the cardholders and their buying behaviours in general.

### **IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

The ever growing demand for money and the present study focus on the opinion of card holders about credit cards and how far the need of the individual is satisfied with its usage by them, especially on buying behaviour.

#### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The main limitations of the study may be state as follows:

- The study is based on the opinion of the individual credit cardholders.
- The area covered for the study is rural market in Tambaram block.
- The respondent's bias noticed during the survey may slightly influence the findings of the study.

### **EVALUATION OF CREDIT CARD**

The origin of credit card has been traced to John C.Biggins, a consumer credit specialist at the Flatbush National Bank of Brooklyn, New York. In 1946, Biggins launched a credit plan called Charge-it. The programme featured a form of scrip that was accepted by local merchants for small purchases. The merchant deposited the scrip in their bank account after the sale was completed and the bank billed the customer for the total scrip is issued.

In 1950, Dinners club and American Express launched their charge cards in USA, the first "plastic money". In 1951, Diners Club issued the first credit card to 200 customers who could use it at 27 specified restaurants in New York continued until the establishment of standards for the magnetic strip in 1970. The credit card became part of the information age.

The proliferation of credit card soon revealed a big drawback of the payment system. Cardholders could shop only in their geographic area. The merchants only with their bank were able to sign up. Bank of America overcame this difficulty. Bank of America began forming licensing agreement with a handful of bank outside California to issue the Bank Americard, later in 1976 changes its name of Visa. This arrangement worked well for banks that obtained the BankAmericard license. However, many banks were left out. In 1966, 16 banks were together in Buffalo, New York, to form their own network. That association was called as Inter-bank Card Association, which was the grand father of master Card International, as known today.

Credit card assesses a customer's financial resources. Credit card may also be categorized as general purpose or proprietary. General-purpose credit card can be used at any merchant. Proprietary, or limited purpose, card are tied to the retailer and can be used only in the retailer's stores. Credit cards are form of consumer loan, a revolving credit account that has a credit limit of a specific amount and that can be repaid in full or part of it. The available credit limit is restored and it can be used again, when once the outstanding balance is paid. Initially, the credit card was created to help the customers for their local small purchases to the merchants. Later on, credit card has become predominant, that means for consumers to obtain goods and services.

TABLE NO. 1: DISTRIBU	TABLE NO. 1: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION										
Occupation	Govt	Govt		Private S		Self. Employed		rs	Total		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Level of Education											
No formal Edu.	0	0	0	0	20	66.6	10	33.3	30	15	
School Edu.	20	50	2	5	6	15	12	30	40	20	
Graduation	46	76.6	4	6.67	8	13.3	2	3.33	60	30	
Post Graduation	20	50	20	50	0	0	0	0	40	20	
Prof./Technical	14	47	10	33	6	20	0	0	30	15	
Total	100	50	36	18	40	20	24	12	200	100	

#### Source: Primary Data

This table shows the relationship of the education with the occupation of the card holders in the study area.

Out of the respondents considered 100 respondents are in Government service, of which 20 respondents have the school education, 46 respondents have the graduation, and 20 respondents have completed the post graduation. And only 14 respondents are professionally gualified.

In the study area, 40 respondents are self employed, of which 20 respondents have no formal education, 6 respondents has school education, graduated respondents are 8, professionally gualified respondents are 6.

The third category of employment is private sector employees. This accounts 36 respondents. Out of that, one has school education, 4 respondents are graduated, 20 are post graduated, and 10 are professional qualified. 24 respondents are in other category of employment. In general it is confined that more credit card holders are in government service and graduate.

Sources of Advertisement Marketing Representative Friends & Relatives Others Total												
Sources of	Advertis	ement	warketing kep	resentative	Friends &	Others		Iotal				
Awareness	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Name of												
the Card												
ICICI	34	34	34	34	20	20	12	12	100	50		
SBI	20	33	30	50	4	6.7	6	10	60	30		
Citi Bank	5	50	6	30	4	20	0	0	20	10		
HDFC	4	40	4	40	2	20	0	0	10	5		
Others	2	20	6	60	0	6	2	20	10	5		
Total	70	35	80	40	30	15	20	10	200	100		

TABLE NO. 2: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO NAME OF THE CARD AND SOURCES OF AWARENESS

Source: Primary Data

This table makes an attempt to find out the reason and sources for getting the awareness about the credit cards in the study area.

Out of the total 200 card holders it is observed that, marketing representatives are the entire principle source for getting information's about the credit cards. This is opted by 80 respondents out of which 34 persons are having ICICI cards, 30 respondents are having SBI cards, 6 persons each for Citibank card and other type of cards. Only 4 respondents are having HDFC cards. This position has occurred, only ICICI and SBI Card Companies are having the direct office to market their credit cards in the study area.

Advertisement is the next important factor to know about credit card. In this also maximum respondents are belonging to ICICI, which are 34 in numbers. SBI has 20 card holders, Citibank has 10 card holders, other are least in the area.

Among the respondents, 30 respondents are aware about the card through their friends and relatives. In this also ICICI is the market leader; it is hold by 20 respondents.

On the whole, it is concluded that, ICICI is the major role player in the study area and direct marketing representatives are the principal sources for getting the information's.

Annual Income	Up to Rs	.100000	Rs.100001 to	Rs.300000	Rs.300001	to Rs.500000	Rs. 500000 a	and Above	ove Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Period of										
Usage										
Less than 1 year	14	23	20	33	16	26	10	16	60	30
1 to 3 years	24	24	50	50	20	20	6	6	100	50
3 to 5 years	6	20	8	26	2	6.67	14	47	30	15
5 years & above	4	40	2	20	2	20	2	20	10	5
Total	48	24	80	40	40	20	32	16	200	100

Source: Primary Data

This table highlights the levels of annual income with the period of usage. The purpose for the construction of this table is, the period of usage of the credit card explains the depth of the operation in the market if it is correlated with the annual income.

Among the respondents considered, 60 respondents are using the card for less than 1 year, on this 14 respondents has the income up to Rs.100000, 20 respondents has the income level for Rs.100001 to Rs.300000. The income portion lying in Rs.300001 to Rs.500000 has 16 respondents and 10 respondents are in the category of income more than Rs.500000. The major respondents are in the category of 1 to 3 year. In this, 24 respondents have the income up to Rs.100001 to Rs.100001, 50 respondents is having the income of Rs.100001 to Rs.300000, 20 respondents has the income category of Rs.300001 to Rs.500000 and 6 respondents has the income of above Rs.500000. 30 respondents are using the card for 3 to 5 years, in this 14 respondents are having the income of above Rs.500000. Only 10 respondents are using the card for more than 5 years.

Responses	Strongly Agreed		Agre	Agreed		reed	Strongly Disagreed		Total	
Name of the Card	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
ICICI	6	6	92	92	2	20	0	0	100	50
SBI	16	27	34	57	10	17	0	0	60	30
Citi Bank	4	20	14	70	2	10	0	0	20	10
HDFC	2	20	6	60	2	20	0	0	10	5
Others	0	0	4	40	2	20	4	40	10	5
Total	28	14	75	75	18	9	2	2	200	100

TABLE NO. 4: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO OPINION ABOUT BUYING BEHAVIOUR

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows the response of the card holders about the buying behaviour. The ultimate purpose of having is to use the credit card instead of carrying the cash.

Among the respondents surveyed, majority of respondents, i.e. 50 respondents have agreed that their card helps them for influencing the buying behaviour. Of which 92 respondents are holding ICICI cards, 34 are having SBI cards. So major card holders in the study area has accepted their cards help them for promoting the buying behaviour.

In this study area, 28 respondents have opinioned that, they strongly agreed about their card helps them of improving the buying behaviour. On that, 16 respondents are holding SBI, 6 are having ICICI, 4 respondents of Citi bank card, and only one respondents of HDFC also prefer the response.

Further to this, 18 respondents has disagree that, there card helps them for buying behaviour. Of which 10espondents are SBI card holders. Only 2 respondents each have preferred other type of cards and HDFC. This situation happens because of the acceptability of their cards in the market. Only 4 respondents of other

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type of card have strongly disagreed about the question of buying behaviour. The reason for this position is only ICICI and SBI cards have established their depth in the market.

### TABLE NO.5: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO FREQUENCY OF USAGE AND VALUE OF USAGE

Frequency of Purchase	Once in a	Month	Twice in a	a Month	Thrice in a	a Month	More tha	n Thrice	Total	
Value of Usage	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Up to Rs.4000	10	45	10	45	2	9	0	0	22	11
Rs.4001to s.6000	8	29	10	36	6	21	4	14	28	14
Rs.6001 to Rs.8000	6	20	10	33	8	27	6	20	30	15
Rs.8001 to Rs.10000	20	50	16	40	4	10	0	0	40	20
Rs.10001 and Above	26	33	20	25	4	5	30	38	80	40
Total	70	35	66	33	24	12	20	20	200	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table indicates the relationship of value of purchase with the frequency of usage of the card in the study area. Out of respondents in the surveyed area, 70 respondents are using the card for only once in month, moreover, 20 respondents are belong to the purchase value group of Rs.8001 to Rs.10000, 26 respondents are having the purchase value of Rs.10001 and above. And other categories of purchase value levels are having only lower level respondents. The next position is occupied by 66 respondents who are using the cards twice a month. In this level major respondents, 16 are having the income level Rs.8001 to Rs.10000 and 26 respondents are having the purchase value Rs.10001 and above.

The cardholders comprising 40 respondents are using the credit cards for more than thrice a month. On this, 30 members are having the purchase value of Rs.10001 to above, 6 respondents has the purchase value of Rs.6001 to Rs.8000, 4 respondents are having a middle group purchase value of Rs.4001 to Rs.6000. In general this table exhibits that, more level of cardholders are using the card once or twice a month. Because their purchase value and annual income level is also low.

#### TABLE NO. 6: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION AND TYPE OF CREDIT CARD

Name of the Card	Mast	er	Visa		Othe	rs	Total	
Occupation	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Salaried								
– Public/Govt.	30	30	46	46	24	24	100	50
– Private	20	55	12	33	4	12	36	18
Self Employed	20	50	16	40	4	10	40	20
Others	16	67	8	33	0	0	24	12
Total	86	43	82	41	32	16	200	100
	Sourcos	Drim	ny Date					

Source: Primary Data

The distribution of sample according to occupation and type of credit card shows that, 50 percent of the respondents belong to salaried – public or government category, of this 30 percent are using Master card, 46 percent are using Visa card and the remaining 24 percent of the respondents use other type of cards. 18 percent of the respondents belong to salaried – private sector, of this 55 percent are using Master card, 3 are using Visa care and the remaining 12 percent of the respondents use both Master and Visa card. 20percent of respondents belong to self employed professionals, of this 50 percent are using Master card, 40 percent are using Visa card and the remaining 10 percent of the respondents use both Master and Visa card and the remaining 10 percent of the respondents use both Master and Visa cards. The remaining 12 percent of the respondents belong to other category, of this 67 percent are using Master card, 33 percent are using Visa card. The table also indicates that the respondents constituting 41 percent are holding Visa card and the remaining 16 percent are holding both Master and Visa cards.

TABLE NO. 13: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORD	ING TO INCOME AND CREDIT LIMIT

	Credit Lin	Credit Limit									
Income	0-20000	%	20000-40000	%	40000-60000	%	No.	%			
0-100000	30	15	18	9	0	0	48	48			
100000-200000	48	24	20	10	0	0	68	68			
20000-300000	20	10	20	10	12	6	52	52			
300000-400000	8	8	6	3	8	4	22	22			
400000-500000	0	0	6	3	4	2	10	10			
Total	106	53	70	35	24	12	200	200			

Source: Primary Data

This table is analyzing the level of income and the credit limit extended by the card issuing companies.

In the study area, 48 respondents are having the income level of up to Rs.100000 lacks, in that 30 respondents are having credit limit of up to Rs.20000 and 18 respondents has a credit limit of Rs.20000 to Rs.40000.

The income level of Rs.10000 to Rs.200000 has the 68 respondents, in this 48 respondents has the lower credit limit of up to Rs.20000 and 20 persons are in the limit of Rs.20000 to Rs.40000.

In the next position, 52 persons are this category. Their income level is Rs.200000 to Rs.300000. This comprises 10 persons are having the credit limit up to Rs.20000, 20 persons having the limit of Rs.20000 to Rs.40000 and 32 persons are having the limit of Rs.40000 to Rs.60000.

The next income level of Rs.300000 to Rs.400000 is having it respondents of which it consists 8 persons are having the limit up to Rs.20000, 6 persons are having Rs.20000 to Rs.40000 and 8 persons are lying in the category of Rs.40000 to Rs.60000.

In this, high income group people are only 10 persons. Their income level is Rs.400000 to Rs.50000. It consists of 6 persons are having the limit of Rs.20000 to Rs.40000 and 4 persons are having the higher limit of Rs.40000-Rs.60000.

So, it is observed that lower income group respondents are availing lesser credit limit and income level is the major criterion for having credit limit.

#### TABLE NO. 13: DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE ACCORDING TO INCOME AND MONTHLY PURCHASE

	Monthly Purchase								Total	
Income	2000-4000	%	4000-6000	%	6000-8000	%	8000-10000	%	No.	%
0-100000	36	18	8	4	0	0	4	2	48	24
100000-200000	44	22	10	5	6	3	8	4	68	34
200000-300000	22	11	10	5	12	6	8	4	52	26
300000-400000	6	3	8	4	4	2	4	2	22	11
400000-500000	2	1	4	2	0	0	4	2	10	5
Total	110	55	40	20	22	11	28	14	200	200

This table explains the relationship of income and the monthly purchase of the credit card holders in the study area.

Out of the respondents considered 48 respondents are having the income level up to Rs.100000. On this 36 respondents are having the purchase value of Rs.2000-Rs.4000, 8 respondents are having the purchase capacity of Rs.4000 to Rs.6000 and only 4 respondents are lying in the level of high purchase capacity.

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The income level of Rs.100000 to Rs.200000 is occupied by 68 respondents. On this 44 respondents are having low purchase capacity, 10 respondents are lying in the level of Rs.4000 to Rs.6000, and 6 respondents have the purchase capacity of Rs.6000 to Rs.8000. High purchase capacity is selected by 4 respondents. 52 respondents are comes under the income level Rs.200000 to Rs.300000. In this maximum number of respondents are having only low purchase capacity. Out of the respondents, only 10 respondents are in the high income group, and they are having the purchase capacity of Rs.8000 to Rs.10000. Hence it is concluded that the study has more level of medium and low income group peoples, high income group persons are very low in number. The credit cards are used for more value of purchase only by the persons having high income

### CONCLUSION

Credit card, which was considered to be a luxury, has become a necessary. Credit card was considered to be used by higher income group. Among the various financial services rendered by commercial banks and other financial institutions extending their credit card facility to customers is an important modern day function. This facility is extended not only to customers in urban areas or cities, but also to customers residing in rural area. But today, with development on banking and trading activities, the fixed income group or salaried classes are also started using the same. There may be the criticism that, it induces for more purchases or make people spendthrift. This may be so in the initial stage, but when once a customer gets used to the credit card, they will know how to use the same in a discretionary manner.

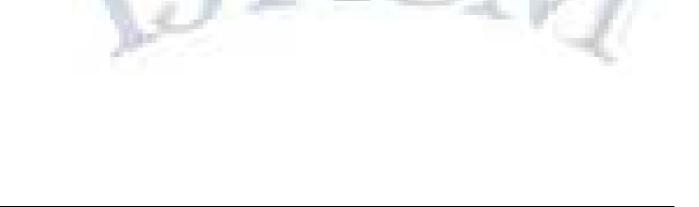
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