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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	AN ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL STRUCTURE IN INDIAN FARMERS FERTILIZER COOPERATIVE LIMITED D. KRUPAVATHI & Dr. P. MOHAN REDDY	1
2.	A STUDY ON CUSTOMER EXPECTATION TOWARDS CAR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MIDDLE INCOME GROUP IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT Dr. VIMALA GRACY.P	5
3.	EFFECTS OF GREEN MARKETING AND ITS INFLUENCE ON BUYING BEHAVIOUR OF CONSUMERS WITH REFERENCE TO BANGALORE CITY (URBAN) Dr. PRIYA SRINIVASA & SRINIVAS H N	7
4.	CUSTOMER SATISFACTION TOWARDS AIRTEL AND TELENOR SERVICES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY D. PRABHAKAR	12
5.	SOCIO LEGAL STUDY OF WOMEN WORKERS IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PEENYA INDUSTRIAL AREA, BANGALORE Dr. L.R.K. KRISHNAN	16
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER	23

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FINDINGS

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A STUDY ON CUSTOMER EXPECTATION TOWARDS CAR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MIDDLE INCOME GROUP IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

Dr. VIMALA GRACY.P DEAN KG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE COIMBATORE

ABSTRACT

The automobile sector is a key performer in the global and Indian economy. The automotive industry in India is one of the largest in the world and one of the fast growing globally. The study covers consumer expectation towards car with special reference to middle income group in Coimbatore city. Sample size is 100 in all obtained through simple random sampling and Chi-Square Analysis in Coimbatore. The study found that the important factors such as exterior, convenience, performance, safety, economic aspect, attitude to mark and after sales & service are considered and expectation by the consumers before decision making. So the manufacturers have to analyze all these factors and find out the best suitable tools for promoting their cars in India. Hence it is concluded that in order to fulfill the expectations of the consumers a proper market survey should be conducted to ascertain their needs and expectations, and accordingly they should be fulfilled to satisfy the customers and entice this lot to buy cars.

KEYWORDS

Coimbatore, customer expectations, car choices, middle income group.

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INTRODUCTION

n Indian Economy, the automobile industry occupies a prominent place. Due to its deep forward and backward linkages with several key segments of the economy, the automobile industry has a strong multiplier effect and is capable of being the driver of economic growth.

Today there are a number of new brand cars available in the market. Even though, new brands are available in the market purchasers depends on the product which is for long way around. Before buying a particular brand of car their past experience, advice of others is considered rather than advertisement and others factors.

One of the essential tasks of marketing management is to understand the buying behavior of the target market. It is necessary to know who, how, when and why consumer buys a product and also to know who makes the purchase decisions and also influence such decisions.

For the last few years, India has been witnessing an unprecedented boom in the car market. A number of new brands of cars are being introduced every year by new and popular companies. The companies are marketing their products with some product differentiation in produced features like model, colour, and gear type, high mileage to meet the need variation of multitude customers and to capture substantial shares of market.

The success of any product mainly depends upon the awareness and preference of the consumers towards that product. The awareness and preference of product in turn depends upon many factors such as its functional design, brand name, price, appearance, brand image etc.,

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Now a day's four wheeler become a basic and rather than a luxury one. There is a rapid growth in four wheelers industries. Number of companies is offering four wheelers in different models and with superior technology.

Marketing of any products whether durable or non-durable involves a systematic and established process through which the business is able to more their products to its consumers.

A number of brands of four wheelers are available in the market with product differentiation in different product feature therefore consumer has a wide choice of four wheelers brands.

There are many numbers of factors that may influence the customer preference such as price, fuel economy, design, driving comfort appearance etc. Small car being an innovation drew the attention of consumers and large part of consumers started buying them initially.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Under this study present situation car is a necessity and forums a part of life to even the middle class people. There are many models are available in cars. All models are differentiated in many ways. Therefore, there is a significant of buyers of cars, particularly towards Maruti Company.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To identify the factors influencing the choice of brands
- 2. To study the customer opinion of cars.
- 3. To measure the satisfaction of car owners.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- 1. The study is confined to Coimbatore District only.
- 2. The study is based upon prevailing consumer's behavior. The consumer behavior may change according to time, fashion technology development etc.,
- 3. Time and cost constraints
- 4. The data collected is based on the questionnaire the result will be vary according to the opinions of individuals.
- 5. The study areas are limited one.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Engil, in his study focused that "consumer behavior means the arts of individual directly involved in obtaining and using economic goods and services, including the decision processes that proceed and determine these arts. It is the process whereby individuals decide whether, what and when, where, how and from whom to purchase goods and services".

Suganya R, (Jan 2012) in her research paper highlights the effect of brand equity on consumer purchasing behavior on car. The paper speaks that brand plays vital role in car sales, not only to attract but also to retain customers. The author concluded that brand awareness and perceived quality proved to influence the brand loyalty. Also brand loyalty and brand association affect customers 'attitudes towards brand.

Nikhil Monga, Bhuvender Chaudhary, Saurabh Tripathi, this research attempts to answer some of the questions regarding brand personality of selected cars in India by conducting the market research. This personality sketching will help in knowing what a customer (or a potential customer) thinks about a given brand of car and what are the possible factors guiding a possible purchase. Similarly, the idea of measuring the customer satisfaction will serve the same purpose of determining the customer perception. Thus, by measuring the willingness of exciting users of a car to recommend it to others will help the car manufacturers to check out the entire customer Buying Behavior. The study shows that brand perception is something which starts building up before a car is purchased and goes on with its use and is reflected in the recommendations. The customer makes to his acquaintances for the same car. Also it is seen that the customer might not be using the car still he holds the perceptions about it. Brand personality of a car is enforced by the sellers in the mindsets of the customers and customers react to it by forming their perception about the car and this reflects in the overall brand image of the car. So brand image and brand personality complement each other and the brand perception aids the building of brand images. As per the study findings, dealers play a very important role in building up the brand perceptions of the cars.

ANALYSIS

TABLE 1: DETAILS OF THE CAR OWNED BY THE FAMILY

S. No	Information	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Maruti	37	37
2.	Tata	24	24
3.	Mahindra	01	01
4.	Hyundai	36	36
5.	Hindustan	02	02
Total		100	100

The above table reveals that 37 percent of the respondents are using Maruti car, 36 percent of the respondents are using Hyundai car, 24 percent of the respondents are using Tata cars, and 1 percent of the respondents are using Mahindra cars. Hence a majority of the respondents owing Maruti car.

TABLE 2: OPINION ON THE PRICE OF THE CAR

S. No	Information	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	High	10	10
2.	Reasonable	33	33
3.	Moderate	54	54
4.	Low	03	03
5.	Others	-	-
Total		100	100

The above table reveals that the opinion of the respondents on the price of the car. 10 percent of the respondents feel that the price is high, 33 percent of the respondents feels that the price is reasonable and 54 percent of the respondents feels that the price moderate and three percent of the respondents feels that the price is low.

TABLE 3: LEVEL OF SATISFACTION IN THE MILEAGE

S. No	Rank	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Excellent	49	49
2	Good	47	47
3	Agree	04	04
4	Disagree	-	-
5	No Idea	-	-
Total		100	100

The above table reveals that the classification of the respondents about the satisfaction level of the car towards mileage. Out of 100 respondents, 49 percent of the respondents consider the mileage as excellent, 47 percent of the respondents consider as good, 4 percent of the respondents consider the mileage as Agree about the mileage level of the car and No respondents consider the mileage level as Disagree and No Idea.

SUGGESTIONS

- The company should regularly conduct market survey to find out the model, colour and problems faced by the consumer.
- Most of the people prefer new cars instead of second hand car.
- The companies establish more number of service stations to provide easy availability of service facilities to the customers.
- The respondents are not satisfied with the resale value of a car. Therefore, the company should take necessary steps to improve resale value of the car.
- The company can provide suggestion box system in the showroom.

CONCLUSION

The finding of this study clearly reveals that the fact depth in market research and all objectives set for the research work has been fully accomplished and the analysis is also performed to maximum extent possible. The study says that Maruti car customer is satisfied with the overall expectation of the other car companies. And the middle class people are highly satisfied with the after sales services provided by the dealers. Thus the overall expectation towards car companies Maruti seems to be good in Tamilnadu District. Consumers prefer Maruti more in the market because it create image of the product as well as the company in the customers.

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