

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

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CONSUMER BUYING BEHAVIOUR OF GREEN PRODUCTS

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ABSTRACT

Environmental pollution is a buzz word in today's business environment. Consumers are also aware of the environmental issues like; global warming and the impact of environmental pollution. The purpose of this study is to find out the relationship between consumer attitude towards green marketing and their buying intention. The design of the study is based on the literature review the consumer attitude toward green marketing was measured covering all the basic aspects of marketing mix. Buying intention was covering the price sensitivity and quality consciousness of the consumers. Consumer's attitudes towards green marketing should be measured and included in the marketing plan of the firms and communicated truthfully to the consumers. Green marketing activity is to be followed by the marketers and manufacturers as the green awareness of the consumer is increasing day to day. An intensive research in the developing/underdeveloped nations is required more comparative and empirical support from the future researches. It will be helpful to the market practitioners and researchers to understand the buying intention of the young generation and apply the green marketing strategy not only for customer satisfaction but for winning the ongoing battle.

KEYWORDS

Green Product, Buying Intention, Green Consumer.

INTRODUCTION

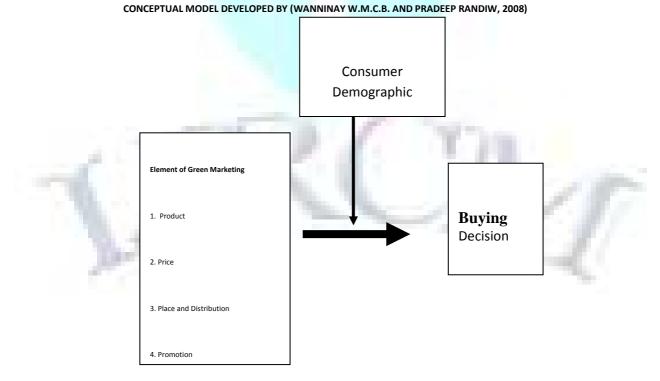
The Oxford English Dictionary (2008) defined that green marketing is "the marketing of products on the strength of their environmental friendliness". Consumers who make a special effort to buy green, consider themselves to be opinion leaders, defined by Shrum, McCarty & Lowry (1995). Marketing function can be categorized as per the basic components of the marketing mix as under:

Product: The product strategy, marketers can identify customers' environmental needs and develop products to address this issue, produce more environmentally responsible packages. (Recycle, biodegradable, reuse), and ensure that products meet or exceed the quality expectations of customers, suggested by W.M.C.B. Wanninay and Pradeep Randiw (2008). Females tend to be more environmentally responsible positive attitudes toward the green products, Diana L. Haytko and Erika Matulich (2008).

Price: W.M.C.B. Wanninay and Pradeep Randiw (2008), found that the Marketers can charge high price with highlighting eco friendliness of the products.

Place; Distribution, obtaining dealer support to green marketing practice is essential, and also, the location must differentiate from competitors, reported by W.M.C.B. Wanninay and Pradeep Randiw (2008).

Promotion: W.M.C.B. Wanninay and Pradeep Randiw (2008) suggested that to promote the eco-friendly attributes of a product in-store promotions and displays by using recycled materials organization can reinforce environmental credibility by using sustainable marketing and communications such as public relations and creative advertising associated with green issues. Females tend to be more environmentally responsible and have more positive attitudes toward the advertising viewed as being "green", reported by Diana L. Haytko and Erika Matulich (2008).



BUYING BEHAVIOUR: Samdahl and Robertson (1989) reported that demographic variables like; income and educational level were not very reliable for predicting environmental concern or buying behavior, but psychology of a consumer can influenced the buying decision of a consumer. (Kassey, 2001) found

that green marketing is an emotional issue for some consumers when purchasing products and services. Mandese, (1991) found that the emerging green market does not necessarily indicate that consumers would attempt to purchase environmentally friendly products for higher prices. Price factor are contradictory affects on willingness to pay more for green products. Green consumers have been identified as extremely price-sensitive when it comes to buying environmentally friendly products.

GREEN CONSUMER PROFILE: Hannylyne Todemann (2010) has categorized consumer profile into following segments:

DEMOGRAPHIC: The most common approaches are segmentation according to demographics, socio-economic, geographic or psychographic (Belch and Belch, 2003). All four segmentation analyses have also been applied to the green consumer market and to date it remains unclear which segmentation approach has been proven to be most useful.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC: Two additional variables that have also been carefully explored are 'education' and 'income', which fall under the category of socioeconomics. Education is normally thought to be positively linked to environmental awareness and concern. This means the higher the educational level of an individual, the more likely he/she is to display a sense of responsibility for the environment.

GEOGRAPHIC: Several studies investigated if the variable 'place of residence' was connected to environmental attitudes and behavior. For these studies, results have been fairly consistent as most researchers found that there was a positive correlation between these two

PSYCHOGRAPHIC: Ottman (2003) maintains for instance that "the green consumer is really a psychographic rather than a demographic". Besides these basic segmentation variables of a consumer a new variable is now to be considered as a possible aid in understanding the green market. The respective concept that investigates the effects of regulatory foci is known as 'Regulatory Focus Theory' (RFT) and is originally derived from the hedonic concept that people are attracted to pleasure and circumvent pain (Higgins, 1997). Over the past fifteen years, it has become a popular research tool, Aaker and Lee, (2004). Zhao and Pechman, (2007), studied the RFT as a Means for Understanding the Green Consumer Nature effects of antismoking advertisements and other health-related messages have eagerly applied RFT in their studies.

OBJECTIVES

On the basis of the findings of the above studies the objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1- To study consumer attitude towards green marketing.
- 2- To analyze the role of marketing 4ps in the buying intention of a consumer.
- 3- To study the relationship between consumer attitude towards green marketing and buying intention

METHODOLOGY

The Attitudes toward green Marketing was measured with the help of eight items. Buying Intention of the consumers was measured on four dimensions; high cost-low cost, good quality-inferiority product on a seven-point Likert-type scale ranging from "Strongly Agree --- --- --- Strongly Disagree". 238 students of post graduate courses were personally interviewed for the purpose, and their profile was also prepared. More than half (52%) of the respondents were male, more than half (56%) of the respondents were from science steam followed by management 29%. A great majority (77%) of the respondents was from younger age group i.e. 20 to 25 years, and 20% of the respondents were from teen age group i.e. up to 20 years of age. More than half (57%) of the respondents were from middle income families i.e. more than Rs.10,000 to Rs.30,000 monthly income, while one third of the respondents were from low income group, their monthly income was less than Rs.10000. Less than half (46%) of the respondents were from service class families, around one fourth (24%) of the respondents were from business families and rest 30% of the respondents belongs to farmer or other professional occupation. Almost all (93%) of the respondents were belonging to large family size i.e. more than five members in their family, while a very low number (9%) of the respondents were from small families i.e. three or less than three members in their family.

RESULTS

ATTITUDES TOWARD GREEN MARKETING

Attitude of the consumers towards green marketing was measured on the all basic component of marketing mix i.e. product, price, place and promotion. The result obtained from the survey is presented in table-1.

1- GREEN PRODUCTS

almost all (96%) of the respondents reported that they are agree with the statement 'Green Products' are valuable to society', with 89% strongly agree. The mean value of the item is 6.71, S.D. is .982 and S.E. is .064 (Table-1).

2- WILLINGNESS TO PAY

An overwhelming majority (92%) of the respondents are agree with the statement that 'I am ready to pay more prices of eco-friendly products', with 6.42, 1.41 S.D. and .091S.E.

3- ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

Almost all (96%) of the respondents are agree with the statement that 'I will prefer promotion campaign that protect environment', with 88% strongly agree, the mean value of the item is 6.71, S.D. is .956, and S.E. is .062.

4- POLLUTION FREE DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

A great majority (88%) of the respondents are agree with the statement that 'I will prefer those places/ distribution channels which are not cause to environment pollution', with 82% strongly agree. The mean value of the item is 6.40, with 1.50 S.D. and .097 S.E.

5-PRODUCT QUALITY OF ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCT

A great majority (80%) of the respondents are agree that 'I will buy eco-friendly products which are lower in quality in comparison to alternative products', with 5.70 mean and 2.12 S.D. and S.E. of the item is .137.

6-BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS

An overwhelming majority (92%) of the respondents are agree with the statement that 'Biodegradable products are useful to the society', with 87% strongly agree, mean value of the item is 6.63, S.D. is 1.09 and S.E. is.070.

7- RECYCLED PRODUCTS

A great majority (70%) of the respondents are agree that 'I will purchase recycled products even they are more expensive', the mean value of the item is 5.28, S.D. is 2.32 and S.E. is .150.

8- ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

A great majority (76%) of the respondents are agree with the statement that 'I never compromise with the environmental value when I go for purchase of domestic products', with 5.47 mean value, 2.30 S.D. and .149 S.E.

CONSUMER BUYING INTENTION

Consumer buying intention was measured on two broad dimensions i.e. price sensitivity and brand consciousness in a 7-point scale and the results obtained from the survey are as follows: (Table-2).

1-PURCHASE OF COSTLY PRODUCTS

A overwhelming majority (88%) of the respondents are agree that 'I would like to purchase those products which are costlier but causing less environmental pollution', with 76% strongly agree. The mean value of the item is 6.29; S.D. is 1.57 and .101 S.E.

2-PURCHASE OF CHEAP PRODUCTS

A great majority (70%) of the respondents are agree with the statement that 'I would not like to purchase those products which are cheap but causing environmental pollution', the mean value is 5.25, S.E. is 2.45 and S.E. is .158.

3- PURCHASE OF INFERIOR QUALITY PRODUCTS

A great majority (74%) of the respondents are agree that 'I would like to purchase those products which are inferior in quality but causing less environmental pollution', the mean value of the item is 5.54 with 2.10 S.D. and .136S.E.

4- PURCHASE OF QUALITY PRODUCTS

More than half (59%) of the respondents are agree with the statement that 'I would not like to purchase those products which are good in quality but causing environmental pollution', the mean value of the item is 4.76 and S.D. is 2.55 with .165 S.E.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONSUMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS GREEN MARKETING AND BUYING INTENTION

The results of the study confirms the findings of Heidt Tania von der, and Rose Firmin (2009) willingness to pay more (WTP) study, as the item 'I am ready to pay more prices of eco-friendly products' was having significant correlation with the buying intention of the consumers, at 0.01 level. The item 'Green Products are valuable to society' was not having any relationship with the buying intention of the consumers.

Green promotion is having significant relationship with the buying intention of the consumers, as the item 'I will prefer promotion campaign that protect environment' was having significant correlation with the buying intention of costly products which are causing less environmental pollution.

On the other hand the item 'I will prefer those places/ distribution channels which are not cause to environment pollution' was having significant correlation with the buying intention of cheap products, this indicates that the distribution of these products should not be very costly.

The purchase decisions of eco-friendly products were also found significant relationship with the buying intention of the consumers as the item 'I will buy ecofriendly products which are lower in quality in comparison to alternative products' was having significant correlation with cost component of the product.

Biodegradable products are useful to the society; the item was found significant relationship with buying intention of cheap products causing environmental pollution.

I will purchase recycled products even they are more expensive, having significant relationship with the buying intention of costly products. I never compromise with the environmental value when I go for purchase of domestic products was having significant negative relationship with the buying intention of inferiority products.

TABLE-1: ATTITUDES TOWARD GREEN MARKETING

S.N.	Name of the Items	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean	S.D.	S.E
1	Green Products are valuable to society	96	1	3	6.71	.982	.064
2	I am ready to pay more prices of eco-friendly products	92	3	5	6.42	1.41	.091
3	I will prefer promotion campaign that protect environment	96	2	2	6.71	.956	.062
4	I will prefer those places/ distribution channels which are not cause to environment pollution	88	5	7	6.40	1.50	.097
5	I will buy eco-friendly products which are lower in quality in comparison to alternative products	80	6	14	5.70	2.12	.137
6	Biodegradable products are useful to the society	92	5	3	6.63	1.09	.070
7	I will purchase recycled products even they are more expensive	70	9	21	5.28	2.32	.150
8	I never compromise with the environmental value when I go for purchase of domestic products	76	5	19	5.47	2.30	.149

TABLE-2: CONSUMER BUYING INTENTION

S.N.	Name of the Items	Agree (%)	Undecided (%)	Disagree (%)	Mean	S.D.	S.E.
1	I would like to purchase those products which are costlier	88	6	6	6.29	1.57	.101
	but causing less environmental pollution						
2	I would not like to purchase those products which are	70	6	24	5.25	2.45	.158
	cheap but causing environmental pollution						
3	I would like to purchase those products which are inferior in	n 74	11	15	5.54	2.10	.136
	quality but causing less environmental pollution						
4	I would not like to purchase those products which are good	59	9	32	4.76	2.55	.165
	in quality but causing environmental pollution						

TABLE-3: CORRELATION BETWEEN ATTITUDES TOWARD GREEN MARKETING AND BUYING INTENTION

TABLE 5. CONNELENTION DETWEEN AT THODES TO WARD SILENT MAINE THIS AND DO THIS INTENTION							
Name of the Items	Costlier less	Cheap causing	Inferior quality	Good quality			
	pollution	pollution	causing less pollution	causing pollution			
Green Products are valuable to society	.026	.100	015	.080			
I am ready to pay more prices of eco-friendly products	.301**	.229**	.146*	.177**			
I will prefer promotion campaign that protect environment	.247**	.107	.165*	.047			
I will prefer those places/ distribution channels which are not	.092	.306**	.123	.153*			
cause to environment pollution							
I will buy eco-friendly products which are lower in quality in	.222**	.225**	.118	.099			
comparison to alternative products							
Biodegradable products are useful to the society	.107	.172**	.114	.101			
I will purchase recycled products even they are more expensive	.204**	.053	.086	.079			
I never compromise with the environmental value when I go for	.047	.007	179**	.087			
purchase of domestic products							

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

CONCLUSIONS

The finding of the study shows that consumers are ready to pay more prices for the products which are causing less environmental pollution. They also prefer promotional campaign which protects the environment, and distribution channels which are not causing environmental pollution. But they are not ready to compromise the quality of the product for the sake of the environment. The marketers should include consumer attitude measurement programme in their marketing plan and adopt all aspects of green marketing then only they can achieve their goal and fulfill the social responsibility aspect of a business concern.

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