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OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS: A STUDY OF FISHER WOMEN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

MALLIKA A SHETTY LECTURER DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MGM COLLEGE UDUPI

ABSTRACT

The earlier perception of e-banking, mobile banking and more such technology or cashless transactions was that the pressure for making business environment green and behaving in a more responsible manner especially comes from Government and its legislations. Now that old perception is changing throughout the globe as studies performed on consumers reflect that in most countries consumers are becoming more aware and willing to act on environmental concerns. There is a radical change in consumer preferences and life styles. World is moving towards cash to cashless economy. Many countries like Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Kenya, Canada, and South Korea are listed for less cash transactions. Now a days smart phone are heavily used for making payment. These changes for digital payment are increased due to penalizing cash transactions and preferential tax rates boosted electronic transaction. Apart from these vast benefits also e- banking facing challenges such as lack of support at point of sale, network issues, security threats, increasing cost, lack of knowledge etc. Millions of people rely on smallscale fisheries for survival; nearly half of them are women. The success or failure of these people who serve as the main source of food and income, directly affect to those who rely on them. This study attempts to interpret the impact of cashless transaction on them. The present study focus on the impact of cashless economy on the people in unorganized sector especially the women in unorganized sector. 200 respondents from rural area were selected for the purpose of study.

KEYWORDS

e-banking, cashless transactions, unorganized sector, fisher women.

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INTRODUCTION

Financial transactions are handled by the way of credit card, cheque, bank transfer without exchange of cash from one person to another is called cashless transactions. Cashless transaction intended to reducing cash transactions and settlement rather doing transactions digitally. It doesn't mean shortage of cash. In modern economy money transferred digitally. The technology introduced internet banking, mobile banking, prepaid instruments, credit and debit card and electronic payment system. The financial safety over the digital payment channel is important for pushing the cashless economy idea. A major obstacle for the quick adoption of alternate mode of payment is mobile internet penetration, which is crucial because point of sale terminal works over mobile internet connection, while banks have been charging money on card-based transaction and payment through cash is yet to pick up card is the one of the most secure, convenient mode of cashless payment in retail market. What is Cashless Transaction: "A cashless economy is one in which all the transactions are done using cards or digital means. The circulation of physical currency is minimal." A Cashless Society describes an economic state whereby financial transactions are not conducted with money in the form of physical banknotes or coins, but rather through the transfer of digital information (usually an electronic representation of money) between the transacting parties. 4.2 Process of Cashless Transaction-: In this increasingly digital world, it's not surprising that money will follow suit as well. Recent trends show that digital money kept in mobile wallets will soon replace physical cash and even credit cards.

IMPORTANCE OF CASHLESS TRANSACTION

- Taxation: with lesser availability of hard cash at homes and more in banks, there is lesser scope of hiding income and evading taxation and when there are more tax payers it ultimately leads t o a lesser rate of taxation for the whole country.
- Transparency and accountability: it becomes a lot easier to track the flow of money with every transaction being recorded with the buyer, seller as well as regulatory bodies, making the system much more transparent and compliant. In the long term it leads to better business and investment prospects for the economy as a whole. More currency in bank will mean more circulation of money in the economy, leading to greater liquidity and would eventually mean lesser interest rates (according to the monetary policy of the country).
- Reduced red tapism and bureaucracy: with cashless transactions through electronic means the wire transfers are tracked and people are accountable which in turn reduces corruption and improves service time.
- Less availability of cash for illegal activities: when people are encouraged to go cashless, there is lesser cash available with the people and there won't be a means to invest in other activities to use the idle cash. Channels like hawala (illegal remittance) will ultimately suffer the brunt of a cashless economy.
- Pack of cards: No need to carry bulky notes in a case. Just carrying the required cards or mobile banking will suffice. More sense of safety with a PIN protected card etc. which will work only with your own credentials. No fear of being robbed unlike carrying cash and letting everyone know that there could be something worth snatching.
- Tracking of expenses: it becomes easier to determine how much was spent where. The exact amount in small denominations can be paid. Unlike cash transactions, there is no need to pay fringe amount in case the exact amount is not available with either of the parties. An important, though seemingly insignificant issue is that of hygiene of the notes.
- Easier accounting Direct payment to bank account. You don't need to go every day to deposit cash to your current account.
- Easier transactions: We can easily do any transaction with security.

CASHLESS MODES

MOBILE BANKING: Access and operate your bank account via the banks app or browser

MOBILE WALLETS: Digital payments mechanism available on mobile phones.

WALLETS: User loads wallet by linking to debit or credit cards and if he wants it back in his account, Wallet Company charges 1% Net Banking.

NEFT, RTGS, UPI, IMPS, USSD OPTIONS National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) help one-to-one & business-to-business funds transfer Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is a real time electronic funds transfer system using mobile phones. It is on 24x7x365. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Inter connects banks to help transfer funds. Both the money sender and receiver need a UPI identity.

Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) helps link mobile number and bank account to make payment.

CHALLENGES OF CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

Lack of acceptance at the point of sale and the risk of fraud is the main challenge faced by the buyer in cashless transactions. As Huge part of the population works in unorganized sector, it's not easy to become cashless to them.

There is a lot of security risk those who already use E-banking at present.

Acceptance of cash everywhere has reduced cashless transaction at present, cash transactions gives more sense of security compared to other modes of payment. Since women responsible for much of household purchases, digital payment is not convenient to them. Moreover, if digital payments are used to buy goods indirect tax cannot be avoided.

Indirect tax record can be traced by use of card, which compels the seller to pay direct tax on sales.

Problem of network congestion and Internet connectivity also reason to avoid digital payment. Merchants are also not fully aware of the policies and regulations about digital payments. These confusions are definitely with the buyers also.

Confusions even with the banks, different authentication systems, combination of ATM PIN, password, One-Time Password (OTP), security questions etc.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chakravorti (2003), "Theory of credit card networks: A survey of the literature" shows that credit card provides benefits to customers and merchants not provided by other payment instruments as evidenced by their explosive growth in the number and value of transactions over the last 20 years. Recently, credit card networks have come under scrutiny from regulators and antitrust authorities around the world. The cost and benefits of credit cards to network participants are discussed. Focusing on interrelated bilateral transactions several theoretical models, have been constructed to study the implications of several business practices of credit cards networks.

Gupta (2003) "Legal and regulatory framework of credit cards" asserts that the regulations of credit card business in India is diffused and need to be streamlined. Whereas in developed countries the law on credit card business in comprehensive and straight forward, its Indian version requires a structural change. Hence, there is a need to explore that various legislative premises of the inferior and unclear Indian version for protection of interest of cardholders and healthy growth of the industry.

Saha (2003), "The booming credit card business of Indian banker." In this study analysis has been done of the credit card business in India. Article is both from the banker point of view and from the users point of view. It is estimated that the credit card volume is increasing around 15% p.a. on average for last 10 years and volume of transaction increased by 20% on an average in last 10 years in India. Various hypothesis and objectives are set to find out which bank offer varieties of services to consumer in relation to credit card. A comparative analysis is made for all the credit cards. In general, most of the credit card is doing very well and the competition is cut throat.

Bhargava (2004) title "Debit cards: A new generation plastic money" analyses that debit cards are fast catching up with the customers. A combination of factors like ease of availability, debit-averse profile of customer and zero interest rates are propelling the usage of Debit Cards. The study emphasizes to increase the usage of these cards, bank will need to improve infrastructure and continues to focus an increasing installations of point of sale [POS] in smaller cities and on the locations which are frequently used by cardholders, and to develop new marketing programmers that educate customers on the benefits of replacing cash with plastic.

Humphrey (2004) "Replacement of cash by cards in US consumer payments" Authors uses over the past 25 years' time series data. The results show that the share of cash in consumer payments appears to have fallen from 0.31 in 1974 to 0.20 in 2000, cheques replaced cash during the 1970, credit cards replaced some cheques during the 1980, while debit cards replaced both cash and cheques in the 1990s. Author feels even though, cash is not projected to go to zero anytime.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To understand the concept of cashless economy.
- 2. To understand the impact of cashless economy on fishing women
- 3. To study the challenges faced by fishing women on cashless transactions

METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION

For the purpose of the present study primary data was collected through a structured questionnaire. 200 respondents were selected from rural area for the purpose.

Secondary data was collected with the help of journals, books etc.

Simple random sampling method was applied.

TOOLS OF ANALYSIS

Importance of concept of cashless transaction is identified from the reaction of respondent. The systematic interpretation has been drawn from finding of the study. Here author made an attempt to find the reality of cashless transactions impact on fishing women.

FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 1: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS			
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
Up to 30	00	00	
31-40	43	21.5	
41-50	104	52	
Above 50	53	26.5	
Total	200	100	

It can be interpreted from table1 that, out of the total respondents 21.5% are in between 31-40 age group, and 52% of them are in 41-50 age while 26.5% are above 50 and no fishing women with young age up to 30 years.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE FAMILY			
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
1-3	38	19	
4-5	48	24	
More than 5	114	57	
Total	200	100	

Source: Primary Data

In the above diagram that majority of the respondent i.e. 57% has more than 5 members in the family and 24% have 4-5 members and 19% of them have 1-3 members in the family.

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TABLE 3: RESPONDENTS INCOME PER WEEK

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1,000-3,000	40	20
4,000-5,000	102	51
6,000 and above	58	29
Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

In the above table 20% of the fishing women earns up to 3,000 per week, 51% of them earn 4,000-5,000 whereas only 29% of them can get more than 6,000.

TABLE 4: RESPONDENTS WITH BANK ACCOUNT	

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	200	100
No	00	00
Total	200	100

Table 4 shows that all the respondents have bank accounts irrespective of their earnings.

TABLE 5: ACCESS	TO DEBIT/	CREDIT CARD
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	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	13	6.5
No	187	93.5
Total	200	100

Even though all the respondents have the bank account only 6.5% of them have Debit card. But none of them accessed credit card. They won't have any intention to have it in future also.

TABLE 6: USAGE OF DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD FOR PAYMENT

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	09	4.5
No	191	95.5
Total	200	100

The above table shows the use of card for payment. Where it shows that 4.5% of them used it, but it should be noted that they used with the help of their children.

TABLE 7: EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION		
	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Up to 5 th Std	164	82
6 th to SSLC	36	18
PUC or More	00	00
Total	200	100

No.7 in the diagram depicts that 82% of respondents have studied up to 5th standard, which even includes illiterate also. 18% of them studied up to 10th standard, and that is the highest qualifications observed among the respondents.

TABLE & LISE OF MOBILE PHONES

TABLE 0. 03E OF MODILE THOMES			
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
Yes	191	95.5	
No	9	4.5	

Total 200 100

More or less all around the 200 respondents nearly 95.5% has been using mobile phones. Whereas only 4.5% of them are not. And the observation of the author is that they are not educated and they are above 60 age.

TABLE 9: RESPONDENTS REACTION ON USE OF E- BANKING

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	00	00
No	200	100
Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

It is being identified that no awareness especially about E-Banking in mind of fishing people. Our query based on developing country in respect of cashless transactions is not at all supported.

TABLE 10: PEOPLE MORE OR LESS LIKELY TO USE CASHLESS SYSTEM ON INTRODUCTION

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
More	16	08
Less	184	92
Total	200	100

Respondents feel that nearly 8% of them in case cashless system introduced they may use it. But majority 92% of them prefers cash in their day to day business.

TABLE 11: OPINION ON AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO MAKE INFORMED DECISION

		No. of Respondents	Percentage
	Yes	00	00
	No	200	100
	Total	200	100

In the above table it is being observed that declining the cashless transaction is not supported by proper information, lack of knowledge made them to resist any kind of change in payment method in their business.

TABLE 12: BELIEFS ABOUT BENEFITS OF CASHLESS SYSTEM TO THEM

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	22	11
No	178	89
Total	200	100

In the table 12, 89% of the respondents believe that cashless system is not beneficial to them in any way, whereas 11% of them feel it may help them in avoiding bank visit frequently with other benefits.

TABLE 13: PAYMENT METHOD USED TO CREDIT BANK A	ACCOUNT
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	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Cash	189	94.5
Cheque	11	5.5
SMS	00	00
On-line	00	00
All of the above	00	00
Total	200	100

In the above table it is being observed that majority 94.5% of the respondents prefer cash to credit their bank account, where only 5.5% of them even use cheque in their bank transactions.

INTERPRETATION

Education makes everything possible', developing country like India suffers with many problems such as illiteracy, poverty, lack of knowledge etc. Respondents reaction depict that the concept of cashless transaction or E-banking is not preferred by the fishing women at present and to adopt this system in their daily business awareness can be created by scheduling education programmes.

Based on the above information it could be identified that there are more hesitation and lack information that brings huge gap for usage of cashless system, it seems to be tough for fishing women to adopt the system in coming days. It is observed that mindset of them also hold back them from using any new platform. Authors tried to notice the challenges faced by the fishing women on introduction of cashless economy.

CONCLUSION

A change into to a cashless economy will depend on a various factor. like, the availability telecom network and security provided by the bank for E-Banking to the customers. People will prefer cashless only when it's easy, quick and safe to make cashless transactions.

There is a need to reduce its dependence on cash as much as possible for transference and efficiency There is a need of transition in users' habits related to online transactions and usage needs to undergo a drastic change. A large part of the population is not in position to reduce the use of cash. Immediate switch to digital transactions to all the sections of population is very difficult. It takes time and effort to transform the mind set to cashless. The digital and physical infrastructure is required to be managed to bring cash equilibrium.

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