

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, IT AND MANAGEMENT CONTENTS

Sr.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page
No.		No.
1.	FORCASTING OF FINANCIAL MARKETS - APPLICATION OF FUZZY ASSOCIATION RULES BHAGIRATHI NAYAK, DR. C. NAHAK & DR. ARUN KR. MISRA	1
2.	PERCEIVED QUALITY OF SERVICES RENDERED BY UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: A CASE STUDY OF PANJAB UNIVERSITY MAIN LIBRARY,	9
	CHANDIGARH, INDIA	
	DR. TESFATSION SAHLU DESTA	
3.	DYNAMIC COMPENSATION SYSTEM FOR PAKISTAN RABIA MUSHTAQ	20
4.	DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EXAMPLE BASED ENGLISH-HINDI MACHINE TRANSLATION SYSTEM	26
	VIVEK DUBEY & DR. H. R. SHARMA	
5 .	INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATION SECTOR: A PARADIGM SHIFT DR. HARSH DWIVEDI & KAVYA SAINI	29
_	A STUDY ON CONSTRUCTION OF EQUITY PORTFOLIO (OIL, IT, STEEL AND BANKING STOCKS) WITH REFERENCE TO THE SHARPE INDEX	20
6.	MODEL	38
	P.VARADHARAJAN & DR. P VIKKRAMAN	
7.	A STUDY ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS IN MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA	44
•	PRADESH	
	M V S MAHENDRA, S ANANDA REDDY & M S BHAT	
8.	A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOLD, SILVER AND NIFTY	50
	R.KARTHIKEYAN & DR. M. G. SARAVANARAJ	
9.	TV VIEWING PRACTICES OF INDIAN CHILDREN	66
	DR. PAVLEEN KAUR & DR. RAGHBIR SINGH	
10 .	TOURISM POTENTIAL IN VELLORE REGION - AN EMPIRICAL STUDY	71
	DR. D. ASHOK	
11.	A STUDY ON STEPS TAKEN TO INPROVE CREDIT AND SAVINGS IN RURAL INDIA	73
4.0	DR. P. UMA RANI HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN INDIA: A STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE	
12 .	DR. PRESHTH BHARDWAJ & DR. JAYRAJ D. JADEJA	78
13.	INCREASING WOMEN EMPLOYMENT IN IT INDUSTRY: AN ANALYSIS OF REASONS	87
13.	S. ANNAPOORNA & S. T. BAGALKOTI	0/
14.	IMPACT OF ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE, ROLE AMBIGUITY AND ROLE CONFLICT ON ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT AMONG THE	90
17.	FACULTY IN ENGINEERING COLLEGES	30
	DR. T. G. VIJAYA & R. HEMAMALINI	
15 .	PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM IN INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT: A CASE STUDY	95
	DR. TEJ SINGH & DR. RAJIV RATAN	
16 .	ROBUST AWARENESS ON INDIAN INSURANCE INDUSTRY IN TIER THREE CITIES	101
	DR. T.V. MALICK, DR. V. SELVAM & N. ABDUL NAZAR	
17 .	AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF E-BANKING CUSTOMERS IN CHHATTISGARH (INDIA)	105
	A. K. CHANDRA & D. K. GANGESHWAR	
18 .	COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PARAMETRIC AND NON-PERAMETRIC VALUE AT RISK (VaR) METHODS VIKRANT VIKRAM SINGH, ANOOP MOHANTY & SUMIT GOYAL	109
10	A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT ONE OF THE NAVRATNA COMPANY IN ELECTRONIC	140
19 .	INDUSTRY	118
	DR. R. PADMAJA	
20.	IMPLEMENTATION OF CRM WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION	125
20.	DR. NARINDER TANWAR	123
21.	PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF SOFTWARE INDUSTRIES THROUGH VALUE ADDED APPROACH - AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON INFOSYS LTD.	129
	DR. R. KRISHNAKUMAR	
22 .	TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES IN RURAL BANKING: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO BANK BRANCHES IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT D. DEVANDHIRAN & SREEHARI .R	133
23.	VICKS VAPORUB - MOTHER'S TOUCH THERAPY: A CASE STUDY	141
2 3.	RAJNI KAMBOJ	141
24.	THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCUS OF CONTROL AND ROLE STRESS AMONG ENGINEERS AND PERSONNEL	144
_7.	R. SUBASREE	
25.	THE LEGAL LACUNAS OF AN INDIAN CORPORATION'S CRIMINAL LIABILITY	149
	DR. SHRUTI BEDI	
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK	154

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ROBUST AWARENESS ON INDIAN INSURANCE INDUSTRY IN TIER THREE CITIES

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ABSTRACT

The insurance industry today is passing through an exciting phase. The lure of the growth potential has already seen players drawing up aggressive plans for market and the mind share of prospective customers. India has 17 life insurers and the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India dominates the industry with over 70% market share, though private players that have been growing aggressively. Foreign holding in Indian insurance companies is limited to 26%. The government wants to increase the cap to 49%, but such a move is opposed by its communist allies. According to McKinsey & Co report, the total premium could go up to \$80-100 billion by 2012 from the present \$40 billion as higher per capita income increases per capital insurance intensity. The average household premium will rise to Rs.3,000-4,000 from the current Rs.1,300 and so will penetration by the existing and new players. The ratio of life insurance premium to India's GDP is around 4% against 6-9% in the developed world. Based on this background, an attempt is made in this article to highlight the robust growth and the potential in the Indian life insurance industry, the role played and customer's awareness on the private life insurance players in Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS

Customer's awareness, Insurance.

INTRODUCTION

he life insurance industry in India, which has been nationalized in the 1950s, was liberalized in 1999 based on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee report (1993). After passing of the IRDA Act 1999, the first private sector life insurance company started its business in 2001. Today there are 15 players in life and 11 in non-life in the private sector. The Indian demographic composition and the life insurance penetration so far have enhanced the attractiveness of the sector. According to data collected by the Life Insurance Council, the life insurance industry has made a huge leap across several other parameters in the liberalized era. The growth in insurance premium collections has spelt an opportunity for the equity market. The industry's investment in the equity market stood at Rs.1,50,000 crore and the assets under management were at Rs.6,00,130 crore as on March 31, 2007. Based on this background, an attempt is made in this article to highlight the robust growth and the potential in the Indian life insurance industry, the role played and customer's awareness on the private life insurance players in Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.

INDIAN INSURANCE INDUSTRY - PROFILE

The insurance industry is estimated to be a Rs.400 billion business in India and the gross premium collection is about 4% of the country's GDP. The industry is growing a rate between 15% and 20% per annum. The total investible funds with LIC alone are about 8% of the GDP. Yet, more than three-fourths of India's population have no life insurance cover i.e., only around 65 million out of 250 million people are covered by life insurance.

INDIA IN GLOBAL LIFE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

The share of India in global life insurance is a meager 0.66%. Life Insurance penetration has gone up from 2.15% (2001) to 2.53% (2004), but is still low compared to the 5.84% (2001) for Asian countries. Per capita premium was \$15.90 in 2006 as against \$125 for Asia in 2001 and \$235 for the whole world. As per various estimates, only 20% of the insurable Indian population is insured.

INDIAN INSURANCE INDUSTRY - PROBLEMS

The Indian insurance market is now facing heavy competition. The private life insurance companies also confronted stiff challenges from the country's only public sector life insurance company with respect to selling insurance products. Moreover, LIC had an astronomical customer base and also enjoyed the trust of the huge Indian population. On account of traditional and orthodox thoughts and beliefs, most people in India preferred government organizations like LIC. Past scams along with the bankruptcy of a few private companies further triggered the lack of trust in private insurers. Another major impediment was the people's lack of knowledge of or awareness about insurance benefits. People generally viewed insurance as a tax saving device and were found to be ignorant about the insurance benefits. They never thought about safeguarding their dependants in case of untimely death or from any other unforeseen contingencies. Therefore, private life insurance players tried to capitalize on customer services. They tried to draw advantage from the fact that people's necessities revolved around highly customized products and services that were delivered at a faster pace.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Krishnamurthy (2007) pointed out that, the country is witnessing growing insurance awareness with such new generation products making entry, even in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Private insurers have already made an impressive beginning. Liberalization has led to a new distribution channel, Bancassurance, a concept

that is already firmly rooted in European countries. Sheela (2007) studied that the Indian market –both the urban and the rural offers tremendous growth opportunities for insurance companies, the need of the hour is to understand the changing needs of customers and their occupational structure. Joy Chakraborty (2007) examined that the Indian insurance industry underwent a drastic transformation with the entry of private players who captured a significant market share (26.6%) during 2005-06.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

Ho. There is no significance relationship between the occupation and awareness of private life insurance.

H1. There is significance relationship between the occupation and awareness of private life insurance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To study the demographic profile of the private life insurance customers in Vellore District.
- 2. To find out customers awareness on private life insurance industry players in Vellore District.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

Research design is descriptive in nature.

SAMPLE

Convenience sampling techniques were used in this study for the selection of samples. The total sample size is 100, consisted both male and female policy holders of Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.

DESIGN OF QUESTIONNAIRE

A structured questionnaire was designed to collect data for the study. Before conducting the field study, the questionnaires were pre-tested. A few modifications were made as a result of the pretest exercise. Likert's five point scale was used to collect the questionnaire.

DATA COLLECTION

Both, primary and secondary data were collected and used for the study. The required secondary data were collected through various journals, magazines, newspapers, books, reports etc. The required primary data were collected from the respondents by face-to-face approach, using of questionnaire.

STATISTIAL TOOLS USED FOR ANALYSIS OF DATA

- 1. Frequency tables, and cross tabulation is used to analyze the data collected.
- 2. Pearson Chi-square test and correlation is used to measure the level of significant relationship between occupation and customer's awareness on private life insurance players.

PERSONAL PROFILE

PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION - I

TABLE 1: AGE OF THE RESPONDENT

Age	Frequency	Percentage
21 to 30	7	7
31 to 40	19	19
41 to 50	59	59
Above 51	15	15
Total	100	100

Source: Primary data.

TABLE 2: EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENT

Education	Frequency	Percentage
SSLC	21	21
+2	24	24
UG	38	38
PG	17	17
Total	100	100

Source: Primary data.

TABLE 3: OCCUPATION OF THE RESPONDEN

IABLE 3. OCCOI	Allow of Ill	L INESI ONDEN		
Occupation	Frequency	Percentage		
Business	48	48		
Professional	9	9		
Agriculture	4	4		
Employee	37	37		
Home maker	2	2		
Total	100	100		

Source: Primary data.

TABLE 4: MONTHLY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENT

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percentage
Below Rs.10,000	26	26
Rs.10,001 to Rs.20,000	40	40
Rs.20,001 to Rs.30,000	16	16
Rs.30,001 to 40,000	6	6
Above Rs.40,001	12	12
Total	100	100

Source: Primary data.

From Table 1 indicated that the majority (59%) of the respondents are under the age group of 41 to 50. From Table 2 reveals that 38% (majority) of the respondents' educational qualification is UG only. From Table 3 pointed out that majority (48%) of the respondents are doing business only. From Table 4 stated that 40% of the respondents are getting monthly income between Rs.10,001 to Rs.20,000.



TABLE 5: HOLDING OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICY OF THE RESPONDENT

Policy Holders	Frequency	Percentage
Bajaj Allianz	10	10
Birla Sunlife	1	1
HDFC	5	5
ICICI Prudential	9	9
ING Vysya Life	3	3
Reliance	3	3
SBI Life	4	4
Max Newyork Life	2	2
TATA Age	2	2
LIC	61	61
Total	100	100

Source: Primary data.

TABLE 6: AWARENESS OF PRIVATE LIFE INSURANCE OF THE RESPONDENT

Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Very high	9	9
High	49	49
Neither high nor low	0	0
Low	39	39
Very low	3	3
Total	100	100

Source: Primary data.

From Table 5, indicated that 61% of the respondents are having life insurance form LIC and remaining 49% of the respondents are having private life insurance policy in Vellore District. From Table 6 stated that majority (49%) of the respondents is having high awareness and 39% of the respondents is having low awareness on private life insurance in Vellore District.

AWARENESS OF PRIVATE LIFE INSURANCE CHI SQUARE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION - II

TABLE 7: CASE PROCESSING SUMMARY

	Cases					
	Valid		Mi	ssing	Total	
	N Percent		Ν	Percent	N	Percent
Occupation * Awareness	100	100.0%	0	.0%	100	100.0%

TABLE 8 CROSS TABULATION BETWEEN OCCUPATION AND AWARENESS

		Awareness				Total
		Very low	Very low Low High Very high			
Occupation	Home maker	2	0	0	0	2
	Employee	1	36	0	0	37
	Agriculture	0	3	1	0	4
	Profession	0	0	9	0	9
	Business	0	0	39	9	48
Total		3	39	49	9	100

Source: Output of SPSS.

TABLE 9 CHI-SQUARE TESTS

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	165.446(a)	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	147.715	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	88.351	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	100		

Source: Primary data, out put of SPSS.

INFERENCE

From Table 9, the calculated value of chi-square is .000 (Pearson's), which is less than the hypothetical value ($\alpha = 0.05$), hence we reject null hypothesis and accept alternative hypothesis. Hence, there is significant relationship between the occupation and awareness of private life insurance in Vellore District.

TABLE 10 DIRECTIONAL MEASURES

			Value	Asymp. Std. Error(a)	Approx. T(b)	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Lambda	Symmetric	.757	.049	7.996	.000
		Occupation Dependent	.731	.062	7.829	.000
		Awareness Dependent	.784	.059	7.845	.000
	Goodman and Kruskal tau	Occupation Dependent	.628	.060	·	.000(c)
		Awareness Dependent	.698	.055		.000(c)

Source: Primary data, out put of SPSS.

TABLE 11: SYMMETRIC MEASURES

		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Contingency Coefficient	.789	.000
N of Valid Cases		100	

Source: Primary data, out put of SPSS.

LAMBDA VALUE

From Table 10, the Lambda asymmetric value (with occupation dependent) is 0.731. The lambda value tells us that there is 73% reduction in predicting the occupation of the respondent with awareness of private life insurance in Vellore District.

CONTINGENCY CO-EFFICIENCT

From Table 11, the contingency co-efficient vale (0.789) is greater than + 5. Hence, there is strong association between occupation and awareness of private life insurance.

FINDINGS

- 1. 58% (majority) of the respondent stated that there is high awareness (49% high awareness and 9% very high awareness) on private life insurance.
- 2. 42% of the respondent stated that there is low awareness (39% low awareness and 3% very low awareness) of private life insurance.

CONCLUSION

The Indian insurance sector has plenty of growth opportunities for the private insurers to capitalize on. In spite of the awareness about life insurance among Indians, close to 42%

Penetration levels remained unimpressive. This survey also revealed that majority of the respondents still viewed insurance as a tax saving device and risk coverage became a secondary objective. Still there is a vital opportunity for Indian insurance industries to create more customer awareness regarding private players in life insurance in tier three cities

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