CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR AND PREFERENCE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PRIVATE HOTELS IN THE BATTICALOA DISTRICT



THAMBIRAJAH REEGAN

1035



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA
2007

ABSTRACT

The research of consumer behaviour is a crucial issue in marketing, it is essential for hotel sector to understand the behaviour determinants of people's attributes & consumption decision.

The consumer behaviour is affected throughout the changes made in the environment. Each & every change in environment is reflects in the consumption decision of the consumer, therefore the necessary arise to study the consumer preference and behaviour of hotel services in Batticaloa district.

To identify consumer behaviour and preference of hotel services, five major objectives have formulated. Based on the objectives the conceptualization frame work for this research has developed, in this sequence of conceptualization frame work, the statements in questionnaire were arranged, where pre-selected set of statements were asked to the respondents in order to collect reliable data. Five-point likert scale model of statements were used, which are ranging from 1-5. The questionnaires were issued to 100 consumers who were selected by random sampling basis.

The all private hotels are going on same unhealthy level. As the result of this study, the services marketing mix, that very much determines the consumer consumption behaviour and preference of the hotel services in Batticaloa district. The price, product, promotion, and physical evidence are highly influenced in the services marketing mix. The buyers' characteristics are highly deciding factors for determines the consumer consumption behaviour and preference of the hotel services in Batticaloa district. In fact the cultural factor and psychological factor are moderate deciding factor for this research.

Thank you

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page No
Acknowledgement		i
Albstract		ii
Table of Contents		iii
List of Figures		vii
List of Tables		viii
		VIII
Chapter One- Introduction		1-7
1.1 Background of the Study		1
1.2 Problem Statement		4
1.3 Research Question		4
1.4 Objectives of the Study		4
1.5 Significance of the Study		5
1.6 Scope of the Study		5
1.6.1 Limitations		6
1.6.2 Assumptions		6
Chapter Two- Literature Review		8-28
2.1 Introduction		8
2.2 Consumer buying behavior	*	9
2.2.1 Consumer wants and needs		9
2.2.2 Company objective	1	10
2.2.3 Am integrated strategy	*	10
2.3 Signifficance of consumer Behavior in mark	teting management	_ 10
2.4 Major factors influencing consumer behavi	or	12
2.5 Buyers" characteristics		12
2.5.1 Cultural factors		13
2.5.2 Social factors		13
2.5.3 Personal factors		14
2.5.4 Psychological factor		15

2.6 Services marketing mix		16
2.6.1 Product		18
2.6.2 Price		19
2.6.3 Place		20
2.6.4 Promotion		20
2.6.5 People		22
2.6.6 Physical evidence		23
2.6.7 Processs		23
2.7 Decision Making Process		23
2.7.1 Problem Recognition		24
2.7.2 Information search		25
2.7.3 Evaluation of alternatives		25
2.7.4 Purchase decision		26
2.7.5 Post purchase behavior		26
2.8 Decision		26
2.9 Summary		28
Chapter Three- Conceptualization and Opera	ationalization	29-37
3.1 Introduction		29
3.2 Conceptualization		29
3.2.1 Consumers Behavior		31
3.2.2 Services Marketing Mix	•	31
3.2.3 Buyers' Characteristics		31
3.2.4 Dimensions	K	32
3.2.4.1. Product	1 to \$1.	32
3.2.4.2. Price	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	32
3.2.4.3. Place	4	- 32
3.2.4.4. Promotion		33
3.2.4.5. People		33
3.2.4.6. Physical evidence		33
3.2.4.7. Process		34
3.2.4.8. Cultural factors		34
3.2.4.9. Social factors		34

3.2.4.10 Personal factors		34
3.2.4.11. Psychological factors		35
3.3 Operationalization		35
3.4 Summary		37
Chapter Four- Methodology		38-46
4.1 Introduction		38
4.2 Study setting, Design, and Method of Survey		38
4.3. Study Population.		39
4.3.1. Sampling		40
4.3.1.1 Sample size.		40
4.3.1.2. Sampling method.		40
4.3.1.3. Sampling Distribution.		40
4.4 Method of Data collection		41
4.5 Method of Measurement		42
4.6. Method of data presentation and analysis.		44
4.7. Method of data evaluation		45
4.8. Summary.		46
Chapter Five- Data presentation and Analysis		47-74
5.1 Introduction	- *	47
5.2 Research Information	7	47
5.2.1 Services marketing mix		47
5.2.U.II. Product	* 4	48
5.2.II.2 Promotion		50
5.2.II.3 Place	251	52
5.2.1.4 Price		53
5.2.1.5 Pesple		55
5.2.1.6 Physical evidence		57
5.2.1.7 Process		58
5.2.2. Overall Services marketing mix		60
5.2 3 Buyers" Characteristics		5/12

5 2 2 H C 1 1 T		
5.2.3.11. Cultural Factors		62
5.2.3.2. Social Factors		64
5.2.3.3. Personal Factors		
5.2.3.4. Psychological Factors		67
5.2.4. Overall Buyers' Characteristics		6.8
5.3 Personal Information		70
5.4 Summary		74
Chapter Six- Discussion		75-85
6.1 Introductions		75
6.2 Discussions on research information		75
6.2.1 Services Marketing Mix		75
6.2.2 Buyers' characteristics		81
6.3 Discussions on personal information		84
6.4 Summary		85
Chapter Seven - Conclusions and Recommendations		86-92
Z.II Introduction		86
7.2 Conclusion		86
7.3 Recommendation		8/8
7.4 Limitations		91
7.5 Implication of the research		92
	,	
x	*	
References		1
ADDENING		
APPENDIX	2 - 1	
Appendix 1- Survey Questionnaire		TLVI