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A Study on Perception of E- Grocery Platforms

Dr. K.S. Usman Mohideen, Janani D, Nijesh R

Associate Professor, Sri Sairam Institute of Management Studies, Sri Sairam Engineering College, Chennai, India

Scholar, Sri Sairam Institute of Management Studies, Sri Sairam Engineering College, Chennai, India

Scholar, Sri Sairam Institute of Management Studies, Sri Sairam Engineering College, Chennai, India

ABSTRACT: This study explored how online and in-store grocery shopping behaviors are influenced by sociodemographic factors, household attributes, and personal attitudes, using survey data from over 2,000 Florida residents. Through a bi-directional structural equation modeling approach, it found that while online grocery shopping had no significant impact on in-store shopping frequency, in-store shopping reduced the frequency of online purchases, indicating a substitution effect. Positive attitudes toward online shopping, preference for alternative travel modes, and tech savviness encouraged online shopping, while cost consciousness and enjoyment of physical shopping promoted instore visits. The findings underscore the importance of collaboration between retailers and transport planners to address the evolving travel implications of e-grocery trends.

I. INTRODUCTION

Consumer perception encompasses individuals' awareness, impressions, and opinions about a business, its products, or brand, shaped by various interactions. In today's dynamic marketplace, consumers are considered central, especially with the rise of online shopping. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this trend in India, driving people toward digital platforms for essential purchases like groceries. E-grocery platforms such as Big Basket, Amazon Pantry, and Jio Mart saw rapid growth as lockdowns limited physical store access. Factors like urbanization, increased digital literacy, and consumer trust in options like "cash on delivery" have fueled the sector's expansion, making online grocery shopping a convenient and widely accepted norm.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sharma and Joshi (2016) – Explored the role of social influence in consumer behavior within the online grocery shopping sector in the United States. Employing a qualitative approach, they examined how social media and peer recommendations influenced purchase decisions. Their study revealed that consumers often turned to social networks for product recommendations and reviews.

Grewal et al. (2017) – Conducted a cross-sectional study in Canada to investigate the role of trust in influencing consumers' choices in the online grocery shopping domain. They argued that trust-building mechanisms, such as secure payment gateways and transparent return policies, significantly impacted consumers' trust and, subsequently, their purchase behavior. The study's findings emphasized the importance of establishing trust in e-commerce platforms to encourage repeat purchases and brand loyalty.

Chen and Riggins (2017) – Conducted a longitudinal study in the United Kingdom, focusing on brand loyalty and its evolution in the online grocery shopping sector. Initial choices were influenced by brand familiarity, but as consumers gained trust and familiarity with the online platform, brand loyalty became more fluid, subject to factors like product quality, pricing, and delivery efficiency.

Anitha N (2017) – Examined the preference of women PG students towards online shopping in Coimbatore city. Studied the shopping factors feel comfortable to buy 24*7, convenient and save time, price discount available, ease and fast, trusted shopping, mode of payment etc. will satisfaction level. Study identified the barriers the customer face during the online purchase. Reduce the problems and improve the level of satisfaction.

Wang and Kim (2018) – Investigated the impact of delivery efficiency on consumer behavior in online grocery shopping in China. Their study, based on surveys and order data analysis, revealed that consumers were more likely to





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return to platforms that consistently provided timely and error-free deliveries. This study emphasized the critical role of logistics and delivery management in e-grocery success.

III. NEED OF THE STUDY

The need for this study on e-grocery buying behavior arises from the rapid growth and adoption of online shopping platforms, particularly in the domain of grocery retail, in India. As e-grocery continues to gain traction, understanding consumer behavior in this context becomes paramount for both retailers and policymakers. By conducting this study, we aim to fill the existing gap in knowledge regarding the factors influencing consumers' decisions to shop for groceries online. Furthermore, by identifying the aspects of e-shopping experiences that consumers appreciate or find lacking, we can provide valuable insights to e-grocery retailers to enhance their offerings and customer satisfaction levels. Ultimately, this study seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse surrounding the evolution of retail and consumer behavior in the digital age, particularly within the dynamic landscape of e- grocery in India.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

• To investigate the factors that influence consumer's intention to purchase groceries online.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

• To identify the demographic characteristics that affect online grocery buying behavior.

• To examine the role of website Quality, product variety and price competitiveness in

influencing E- Grocery purchasing decisions.

• To analyze the impact of convenience, flexibility and delivery options on consumers

online grocery shopping behavior.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

It aims to identify what factors influence customers to choose online platforms, including website elements that drive purchasing decisions. The study seeks to understand whether people enjoy and prefer buying groceries online and to evaluate the key elements affecting this choice. With the rapid growth of the e-grocery industry in India, the research also explores the potential of online grocery shopping to become more popular and possibly surpass traditional in-store shopping. It highlights the growing opportunities for innovative services in the evolving e-commerce landscape.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopts a descriptive research design to capture a comprehensive view of on e-grocery buying behavior will adopt a mixed-method approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.

DATA COLLECTION

In this study both primary and secondary data are used

Primary data: The primary data is collect through these questionnaire serve as a cornerstone of the study's analysis, capturing the wide range of perspective and experience.

Secondary data: In addition to primary data, secondary sources such as magazines, books and websites are consulted. These sources complement the primary data by providing additional information and background context related to e grocery buying behavior.

QUESTIONNARE

The primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire. The structured questionnaires that were framed and designed consists of

• Likert 5 point scale

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• Multiple choice question

Ranking question

SAMPLE DESIGN

The study focuses on individuals who are consumers of e-grocery services. The primary objective is to assess their level of satisfaction with these platforms. A random sampling method was employed, and a total of 68 respondents participated in the survey. Additionally, a convenience sampling technique was used to select participants who were easily accessible and willing to respond.

VI. STATISTICAL TOOLS

- Chi-Square Test
- U- test
- Chi- Square

1. Chi-Square Test (χ² Test)

Used to test the relationship between two categorical variables. It compares the observed frequencies in each category to the expected frequencies (based on the assumption of no relationship between the variables). When analyzing survey responses in the form of counts (e.g., gender vs. e- grocery preference). To determine if differences in proportions are statistically significant.

Example: Is there a significant association between age group and frequency of using e-grocery apps?

2. Mann-Whitney U Test (U Test)

A non-parametric test used to compare differences between two independent groups, especially when data is not normally distributed. When comparing medians between groups (e.g., frequency of e- grocery use between men and women). Suitable for ordinal data or non-normally distributed continuous data.

Types:

- Independent t-test: Two different groups.
- Paired t-test: Same group at two different times.

3. Weighted Average

Calculates an average where some values are more important or frequent than others. When survey responses have different importance levels. For example, calculating overall satisfaction by assigning higher weight to "Strongly Agree" than "Agree". Provides a more realistic average when not all values contribute equally.

VII. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SHOWING THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE FOR RANKING

ITEMS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	MEAN RANK
Price and Discount	68	2.40
Product variety	68	3.04
Delivery speed	68	3.40
Brand trust and reputation	68	3.46
Ease of use and Convenience	68	2.72

INTERPRETATION

The factor ranked most important by respondents is Price and Discount (mean rank = 2.40), indicating high price sensitivity. Ease of Use and Convenience follows as the second most important factor. Product Variety is moderately important, reflecting a desire for options without being a top priority. Delivery Speed and Brand Trust received the





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highest mean ranks, showing they are less influential in decision-making. Overall, practical and cost-related factors outweigh brand perception for the respondents.

VIII. SHOWING THE CHI- SQUARE TEST FOR INCOME AND MONTHLY PROVISION OF THE RESPONDENT0053

NULL HYPOTHESIS

There is no significance between the income and monthly provision of the respondents.

ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS

There is a significance between the income and monthly provision of the respondents.

TEST	VALUES	df	ASYMPTOTIC SIGNIFICANCE (2-SIDED)
Pearson Chi- square	10.146 ^a	9	0.339
Likelihood Ratio	13.519	9	0.140
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.501	1	0.479
No. of valid cases	68		

a. 11 cells (68.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected counts is 44.

INTERPRETATION

The Pearson Chi-Square p-value = 0.339, which is greater than 0.05. This means there is no statistically significant association between the two categorical variables tested. The Likelihood Ratio p-value = 0.140, also greater than 0.05, supports the same conclusion. The Linear-by-Linear Association p-value = 0.479 suggests no significant trend or linear relationship between the variables if one or both are ordinal. Since all p-values are > 0.05, we fail to reject the null hypothesis.

IX. SHOWING THE AGE AND MULTIPLE DELIVERY OPTIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS

NULL HYPOTHESIS

There is no significance between the Age and Multiple delivery options of the respondents.

ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS

There is a significance between the Age and Multiple delivery options of the respondents.

MULTIPLE DELIVERY OPTIONS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	MEAN RANK
Strongly agree	32	32.28
Agree	20	31.00
Neutral	7	38.29
Disagree	5	42.50
Strongly disagree	4	53.13
Total	68	





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TEST STATISTCICS a,b

TEST	AGE
Kruskal Wallis H	7.671
Df	4
Asymptotic Significance	0.104

INTERPRETATION

The test shows no statistically significant difference in responses regarding multiple delivery options across age groups (p = 0.104 > 0.05). While mean ranks suggest that disagreement levels tend to be slightly higher among certain groups (e.g., those who strongly disagree have the highest mean rank of 53.13), the variation is not large enough to conclude a meaningful age-based difference. Therefore, perceptions on delivery options appear relatively consistent across age categories.

FINDINGS

• 49% of respondents are satisfied and 13.7% are highly satisfied with the quality of e-groceries, indicating a generally positive reception.

• 37.7% of respondents hold a neutral opinion, showing no strong dissatisfaction but also highlighting areas for potential improvement.

• Home delivery is the most influential factor, with 66.7% of respondents preferring it, highlighting convenience as the key driver.

• 9.6% of respondents prefer e-grocery due to lack of time, emphasizing how online shopping suits busy lifestyles.

• Comparative pricing (8%) and product customization (5.9%) are less significant factors, showing they are secondary to convenience and time-saving.

SUGGESTION

• Investigate key factors like convenience, product variety, pricing, delivery options, customer service, and how demographics (age, income, location) influence satisfaction levels across different platforms.

• Analyze the role of user experience design, mobile app features, online reviews, ratings, social media, and influencer marketing in shaping consumer perceptions and purchasing decisions.

• Examine how promotional offers, loyalty programs, delivery speed/accuracy, and ethical or sustainable practices influence consumer satisfaction and repeat purchases in the e-grocery sector.

X. CONCLUSION

The analysis of consumer satisfaction with e-grocery buying behavior reveals a strong preference for convenience, particularly through home delivery services, which is the most significant factor influencing consumer choices. The majority of consumers are satisfied or highly satisfied with the quality of e-groceries, with no respondents reporting dissatisfaction. However, a considerable portion remains neutral, indicating some room for improvement. Price and product customization are less influential but still relevant considerations. Overall, e-grocery platforms are meeting consumer expectations primarily through convenience and satisfactory product quality, though continuous enhancements could further boost satisfaction

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