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Yashaswi Education Society's International Institute
of Management Science, Pune

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### Editorial -----

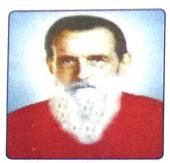
It is our pleasure to bring you the special issue of the Research journal which is a glimpse of Two Days National Conference organized by Yashaswi Education Society's International Institute of Management Science, Chinchwad in Association with AIMS on 'Current Trends in Management-Changes and Challenges' on 27th& 28thof February, 2020. The two days National Conference witnessed some of the great speakers from the Academics and the Industry.

The objective of the Conference was to provide an intellectual forum for exchange of knowledge and information in relation to latest developments in the field of Management. The National Conference provided platform to the researchers, developers, industry experts and academicians to share their innovative ideas and research in the field of Current Trends in Management. The conference has provided a bridge to the research community and technology developers from academia and industry on various topics of current trends in Management and Science. It also helped creating the research interest in the minds of young learners and to pursue research as their career. With an aim to bring original quality research findings to the research community, the theme of the conference was set 'Current Trends in Management - Changes and Challenges'. This conference has provided an opportunity to exchange new ideas, its application prospects to establish business or research relations and to find national partners for future collaboration.

This special issue provides useful insights on the current trends in management to strengthen the research Knowledge of Policy Makers & Regulators, Academicians, Industry experts, Research Scholars & Students. We look forward to your feedback and for your support in the future.

**Dr. Vinay Kumar Sharma**Editor in Chief

## अनन्य हिन्दी सेवी



डॉ. कामिल बुल्के (1909–1982)

बेल्जियम के कामिल बुल्के ने अपनी इंजीनियरिंग शिक्षा के मध्य ही सन्यास ग्रहण करने का मन बना लिया था। धर्म शिक्षा नीदरलैंड में लेकर 1935 में धर्म प्रचार हेतु भारत आये थे। वे भारत में राष्ट्रीय एकता की प्रतीक "हिन्दी" के प्रति उदासीनता एवं अंग्रेजी के प्रसार को देखकर दुःखी हुए। उन्होंने भारत की नागरिकता लेकर भारत को अपना देश व हिन्दी को अपनी भाषा माना। "रामकथा और तुलसी" तथा "हिन्दी शब्दकोष" आदि उनकी अनेक पुस्तकें हिन्दी को उनकी अमूल्य देन हैं। 1974 में पदम् भूषण से उन्हें सम्मानित किया गया। 17 अगस्त 1982 को दिल्ली में चिरस्मरणीय बुल्के का निधन हुआ और वे भारत की धरती में ही विलीन हो गये।



् 'प्रतीक्षा' १४, उत्तर दक्षिण रास्ता दसवाँ जुहू-पारले स्कीम बम्बई - ४०० ०४€

मदा सदम अद्वादा माम। माद्र ० मदा सदम अद्वादा माम। माद्र ० मदा सदम अद्वादा माम। माद्र ० मदा सदा सदम अद्वादा माम। माद्र ० मदा सदम अद्वादा स्था साम। माद्र ० मदा सदम अद्वादा साम। माद्र ० मदा सदम अद्वादा साम। माद्र ०

रें तुलसा जिनके प्रथम से प्रते हे निकसता राभ, तिन के क्मफा की पातरी मेरे तन की चाम।



#### SHODH SARITA

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AN INTERNATIONAL BILINGUAL PEER REVIEWED REFEREED RESEARCH JOURNAL

## FACTORS AFFECTING CUSTOMERS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS AYURVEDIC MEDICINES WITH REFERENCE TO PUNE CITY

Dr. Pushpraj Wagh\*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Now a days with development of civilization, changing lifestyles, pollution and spread of new diseases, people have started facing many health related problems and disorders. Many people have started preferring Ayurvedic medicines over all other medicines and therapies. The awareness towards Ayurvedic medicines is increasing and perception is also changing in India as well as other countries.

A structured-five point Likert scale questionnaire was used to collect information through personal interview with 480 customers in Pune city selected on the basis of convenience sampling method.

The focus of the study is to understand the various factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines. The study will be of value to the companies engaged in manufacturing and marketing of Ayurvedic medicines.

Keywords: Factors affecting, Ayurvedic medicines, Perception, Pune city

#### **Introduction:**

Ayurveda, a science of life, is the ancient and traditional medicinal system of India. Through generations the knowledge and wisdom of Ayurveda has passed and evolved.<sup>1</sup>

Many new diseases and lifestyle disorders make people dependent on various types of medicines. As the treatments are for longer duration, involve cost as well as side effects.<sup>2</sup>

Ayurvedic medicines and therapies are the preference of many people now a day in India as well as in many countries. The perception of people towards Ayurvedic medicines and treatments is changing.<sup>3</sup>

Researcher in the present study attempts to identify the major factors that affect the perception of the people towards Ayurvedic medicines.

#### **Review of Literature:**

Jaggi, Ruchi&Ghosh, Munmun. (2017)<sup>4</sup>conducted a survey of consumers in Pune city. The analysis of the study identified the most important the perception of people towards Patanjali products is effective communication strategy. Association of Baba Ramdev's image and the products' indigenous nature are other factors that have effect on the perception of people.

Ali, M. I., and Yadav, M (2015)<sup>5</sup> conducted a survey of sixty consumers using herbal products in three cities of Bhopal. The objective of the research was to understand the reason of these consumers for using the herbal products. They concluded that the hazardous effect of chemical based medicines was the major reason behind their use of herbal products.

Suganya R, Dr. Hamsalakshmi R, (2017)<sup>6</sup>, made an

<sup>\*</sup>Associate Professor, Yashaswi Education Society's International Institute of Management Science, Pune

attempt to identify customers' satisfaction and factors affecting the customers buying behavior towards Ayurvedic and healthcare products. They concluded that customers are satisfied of the Ayurvedic products and the major factor that influences the consumer behavior is-Ayurvedic and healthcare products are chemical free and quality product.

Shetty S. M. (2019)<sup>7</sup> conducted a study to understand the customers' perceptions and beliefs towards Ayurvedic treatments in Mumbai city. He says that as compared to other medicinal systems, Ayurveda still lags behind. He suggested that Ayurvedic medicines marketers to build customer loyalty should put more emphasis on customer relationship management. There is also a need for focused promotion and to promote the benefits of Ayurvedic medicines.

#### **Significance:**

The present research will be useful to understand the major factors affecting the perception of customers towards Ayurvedic medicines.

The study will be of great use to manufacturers and marketers of Ayurvedic medicines to design advertising and promotional programmes based on the understanding of various factors affecting their perception. This would help companies to create a favorable position in the minds of their target customers and create a competitive edge over other companies and other forms of medicinal systems.

#### Methodology:

The secondary data to explore various affecting factors was collected through the review of various journals, books and websites. Primary data for the present research paper was collected through personal interview and a structured five point Likert scale questionnaire. The population of customers of Ayurvedic medicines in Pune city is unknown. Therefore a sample of 500 customers on the basis of

convenient sampling method was selected for the present study. Out of 500 customers, 480 customers provided complete information; therefore analysis is based on the responses given by 480 customers in Pune city. MS Excel and SPSS were used for the analysis of data. The reliability of the datasets was checked by Test-Retest method and hypothesis was tested by using Friedman's Chi square test.

#### Objectives of the study:

The objective of the present study is to explore various factors and identify the major factors influencing the customers' perception towards the Ayurvedic medicines in Pune city.

#### Hypothesis of the study:

Side effects of chemical based medicines, indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines and holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause are major factors affecting the customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines in Pune city

### Analysis of factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines:

Respondents were asked to comment on their perception towards various factors using five response options: 5. Strongly Agree, 4. Agree, 3. Neither Agree nor Disagree, 2. Disagree, 1. Strongly Disagree.

#### A. Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines:

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics: Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines

Mean	3.33
Standard Deviation	1.16
Skew ness	-0.35
Kurtosis	-1.01
Coefficient of Variance	34.83

Interpretation: Mean=3.33, Standard Deviation =1.16 and Coefficient of Variance =34.83. Since, Coefficient of Variance is more than 33%, Mean is not a meaningful Value. Hence, interpretation is based upon frequency distribution table.

Table 2: Frequency Distribution table: Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines

Response Category	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	24	5.0
Disagree	128	26.7
Neither Agree nor	56	11.7
Disagree		
Agree	208	43.3
Strongly Agree	64	13.3

**Interpretation:** Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents agree on their perception towards Ayurvedic medicines as Indigenous nature.

### B. Advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products:

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics: Advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products

Mean	3.25
Standard Deviation	1.14
Skew ness	-0.51
Kurtosis	-0.79
Coefficient of Variance	35.07

**Interpretation:** Mean=3.25, Standard Deviation =1.14 and Coefficient of Variance = 35.07. Since, Coefficient of Variance is more than 33%, Mean is not a meaningful Value. Hence, interpretation is

based upon frequency distribution table.

Table 4: Frequency Distribution table: Advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products

Response Category	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	40	8.3
Disagree	104	21.7
Neither Agree nor Disagree	72	15.0
Agree	224	46.7
Strongly Agree	40	8.3

Interpretation: Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents agree on their favorable perception towards Ayurvedic medicines because of advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products.

#### C. Reasonable cost of Ayurvedic medicines:

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics: Reasonable cost of Ayurvedic medicines

Mean	2.70
Standard Deviation	1.04
Skew ness	-0.004
Kurtosis	-1.30
Coefficient of Variance	38.51

Interpretation: Mean=2.70, Standard Deviation =1.04 and Coefficient of Variance = 38.51. Since, Coefficient of Variance is more than 33%, Mean is not a meaningful Value. Hence, interpretation is based on frequency distribution table.

Table 6: Frequency Distribution table: Reasonable cost of Ayurvedic medicines

Response Category	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	56	11.7
Disagree	184	38.3
Neither Agree nor	88	18.3
Disagree		16.5
Agree	152	31.7
Strongly Agree	0	0

**Interpretation:** Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents disagree on their perception towards Ayurvedic medicines as reasonable cost medicines.

#### D. Side effects of chemical based medicines:

Table 7: Descriptive Statistics: Side effects of chemical based medicines

Mean	4.08
Standard Deviation	0.85
Skew ness	-1.02
Kurtosis	0.91
Coefficient of Variance	20.83

Interpretation: Mean=4.08, Standard Deviation =0.85 and Coefficient of Variance = 20.83. Since, Coefficient of Variance is less than 33%, Mean is a meaningful Value. Skew ness is -1.02. Since Skew ness is a negative value, the curve is left skewed curve and data is piled up on right.

Kurtosis is 0.91. Since, Kurtosis is a positive value; the curve is tall and narrow. Skew ness and Kurtosis values further reaffirm the meaningfulness of mean.

Table 8: Frequency Distribution table: Side effects of chemical based medicines

Response Category	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0
Disagree	40	8.3
Neither Agree nor	32	6.7
Disagree	52	
Agree	256	53.3
Strongly Agree	152	31.7

Interpretation: Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents agree on their favorable perception towards Ayurvedic medicines because of side effects of chemical based medicines.

### E. Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause:

Table 9: Descriptive Statistics: Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause

Mean	3.93
Standard Deviation	1.19
Skew ness	-0.73
Kurtosis	-1.00
Coefficient of Variance	30.27

Interpretation: Mean=3.93, Standard Deviation =1.19 and Coefficient of Variance = 30.27. Since, Coefficient of Variance is less than 33%, Mean is a meaningful Value. Skew ness is -0.73. Since Skew ness is a negative value, the curve is left skewed curve and data is piled up on right. Kurtosis is -1.00. Since, Kurtosis is a negative value; the curve is short and flat. Skew ness and Kurtosis values further reaffirm the meaningfulness of mean.

Table 10: Frequency Distribution table: Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause

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Response Category	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0
Disagree	112	23.3
Neither Agree nor	16	3.3
Disagree		
Agree	144	30.0
Strongly Agree	208	43.3

Interpretation: Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents agree on their perception towards Ayurvedic medicines as holistic approach treating the root cause.

#### **Hypothesis Testing:**

#### **Hypothesis:**

Side effects of chemical based medicines, indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines and holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause are major factors affecting the customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines in Pune city

#### **Purpose:**

To study if there is significant difference in the extent of factors affecting the customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines

#### Statistical Test: Friedman's Chi Square Test:

Variables and Measurement: Respondents were offered following five factors affecting their perception towards Ayurvedic medicines and were asked to comment on the extent to which they agree the effect of the various factors using five point scale (5–Strongly Agree, 4–Agree, 3 - Neither Agree nor Disagree, 2–Disagree, 1–Strongly Disagree):

A. Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines

- B. Advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products
- C. Reasonable cost of Ayurvedic medicines
- D. Side effects of chemical based medicines
- E. Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause

H<sub>0</sub>: Factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines do not differ in magnitude (mean ranks are equal).

H<sub>1</sub>: Factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines do differ in magnitude (mean ranks are not equal).

Level of Significance:  $\alpha$ =0.05

Table 11: Test Statistics- Factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicinesTest Statistics

Test Statistics		
N	480	
Chi-Square	107.872	
Df	4	
Asymp.	.000	
Sig.		

#### **Observation:**

 $X^2(df= 4)=107.872$ , P-Value=0.000

**Conclusion:** Since P-Value (0.000) is less than the level of significance (0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, it is concluded that factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines differ in magnitude. To find out where the difference lies, we referred to ranks table.

Table 12: Mean Ranks- Factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines

	Mean Rank
Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines	2.74
Advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products	2.72
Reasonable cost of Ayurvedic medicines	1.76
Side effects of chemical based medicines	3.93
Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause	3.86

From the ranks table, it can be seen that Side effects of chemical based medicines has mean rank of 3.93. Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause has 3.86, Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines has 2.74, Advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products has 2.72 and Reasonable cost of Ayurvedic medicines has mean rank of 1.76. Hence, the top three factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines are:

- a) Side effects of chemical based medicines
- b) Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause
- c) Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines

#### **Findings:**

- i. Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents i.e. 56.6 % agree on their perception towards Ayurvedic medicines as Indigenous nature. (ref. table-2)
- ii. Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents i.e. 55% agree on their favorable perception towards Ayurvedic medicines because of advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic

medicinal products. (ref. table-4)

- iii. Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents i.e. 50% disagree on their perception towards Ayurvedic medicines as reasonable cost medicines. (ref. table-6)
- iv. Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents i.e. 85% agree on their favorable perception towards Ayurvedic medicines because of side effects of chemical based medicines. (ref. table-8)
- v. Among the respondents, except those who were indifferent, most of the respondents i.e. 73.3% agree on their perception towards Ayurvedic medicines as holistic approach treating the root cause. (ref. table-10)

#### **Conclusion:**

Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines, advertising and promotion of Ayurvedic medicinal products, reasonable cost of Ayurvedic medicines, side effects of chemical based medicines and holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause are the various factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines.

From descriptive statistics, testing of hypothesis and rank table it can be concluded that the top three factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines are:

- a) Side effects of chemical based medicines
- b) Holistic approach of Ayurvedic medicines treating the root cause
- c) Indigenous nature of Ayurvedic medicines

#### **Scope for future Research:**

The present research is based on factors affecting customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines in in Pune city.

The scope of the research can be extended to other major cities to know if any other factors affect the customers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines.

The study can also be extended over customers' awareness, satisfaction, and consumer behavior towards Ayurvedic medicines.

Doctors' and retailers' perception towards Ayurvedic medicines can also be of value for better understanding.

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