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DETERMINANTS AFFECTING CONSUMER COMPLAINING BEHAVOIR: A STUDY IN A UNIVERSITY OF PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: - The purpose of this conceptual research study paper is to incorporate 2 streams of collected works associated to consumer complaining behavior (CCB) and attitudinal or behavioral perspectives. The conceptual structure aims to enhance or change the viewpoint on consumers' complaint practices. The generated model is purposed that completes the attitudinal or behavioral perspectives and consumer complaining behavior literature in the framework. Cautious study review with potential has done to validate the conceptual work here. The selected framework is representing an initial point for elaborating concepts on consumer complaining behavior. The organized study of empirical work research is a need to assess the generated integrative model.

Key Words: Attitude, loyalty, past experience, controllability, consumer behavior, university.

INTRODUCTION

Consumer complaining behavior (CCB) is a study of society perspective in groups and individually and of course for the business in terms of having safe and secure practices of services and products, satisfaction needs and effects of the criteria having on the society and to the consumer. This perspective is helping to see the characteristics and different ways of understating the buying decision making mindset individually as well in groups of society, like family and friends. The objective of this paper is to examine consumer complaint behavior (CCB) post-purchase

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dissatisfaction, which is a critical factor for business firms pursuing consumers' retention. Marketers should encourage consumer complaints due to its impression of loyalty as well words of mouth. This paper contains three objectives here; first one is to give an idea about the review of this established research practice towards the field of CCB, second is, to provide a view for contextualize this work, in an environment of consumption, third is to provision of proved model for upcoming study.

Customer behaviors' study is based on purchaser buying behaviors', with different directions, how to paying and complaining behavior accordingly situation and the most favorable thing to keep in mind for both professionals and for supervisor customer mindset of service practices. Information about CCB provides a scenario for organization in different ways as to recognitions with common problems of services and also we can get through better services provision criteria as well (Mehra and Johnston, 2002) and (Filiatrault and Marquis, 2002) understanding of the perceived service quality for consumer (Brown and Tax, 1998) and it facilitating strategic planning help (Walker-Harrison, 2001; Edvardsson, 1992; Mehra and Johnston, 2002; Halstead and Droge, 1991). Brown and Tax, (1998) and Rustetall, (1996) gave discussion that if a customer or consumer provides negative feedback or do complain then he/she should be appreciated and encouraged rather than demotivation because if does not complain against their dissatisfaction then must be loss of customer i.e. increasing risks on business. Learning about the customers complaining behaviors process will be useful in terms to prevent mishaps of service provision from the providers perspective, consumers complaint behavior is a need because it.

- Influence the future survives possibility for the service provider firms.
- May cut the negative impression.
- Provide helps to do improve in service provision against complaint by getting feedback that
 will be useful, in making improvement for customer loyalty and long terms benefits for
 business (Reichheld, 1993; Kelleyetal, 1993; Sasser and Reichheld, 1990; Wernefelt and
 Fornell. 1987).

Service providing firms know that in business area consumer's dissatisfaction and the management and controllability of service recovery are key pointers of consumer loyalty, welfare and discontent (Singh, 1991). More demonstrations like customer problems' resolution give consumer's commitment and trust with positive impacts (Tax at al. 1998). Dwyer et al. (1987) and, Suraman and Berry, (1991) argue that taking actions for managing the complaint therefore is a critical discussion, "moment of truth" in increasing and retaining the consumer relationship. Brown and Tax, (1998); Harris and Roynolds, (2006); Gopinath and Nyer, (2005) said in their studies that customer feedback, displeasure, negative behavior and complaints are the things which provide company the information which is key drivers for them to sustain their companies, it provides different aspects of sustaining, many studies gives information so, complaint should be always appreciated. It is crystal clear that the organization could do nothing to a complaint until the

complaint received. This will not happen if complaints are not encouragement by organization. Through the relevant variables by appreciating complaints will give chance to organizations to focus on exact regions for modification that gives assistance to organization make more effective and potential consumer complaint programs. This could be possible only when it approaches to target people. We cannot judge how much efficient working of this program alone. This research study is attempted to answer the following questions:

- Is there any relationship between attitude and CCB?
- How past experience affect the CCB?
- What is the relationship between controllability and CCB?
- How would customer loyalty affect the customer complaining behavior?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Consumer Complaining Behavior

As a defensive market tool, the practical use of customer/client complaint management has been hooked up with great importance among academic within the field of marketing analysis. Considerable existing findings centered around question like; however consumer tend to act once discontented; why consumer complaint, generally speaking a consumer would resort to four sorts of complaint-showing behavior once feeling dissatisfied (Davidow and Dacin, 1997) specifically, silent, exit NWOM, and direct complaint or making complaint to 3rd party. It is defined that direct consumer complaint is as displeased consumer protest against company to recover, return, renewal, apology etc. Whereas the displeasure with product, service or the practice of buying service as the prerequisite of making a complaint, major motives may be found in release of unsatisfactory emotions, request for clarifying the matter and responsibility, protection of one's own rights and demands for apology; moreover as compensation to some extent, or help in quality and repair, additionally consumer attribution of the entire method and subsequent emotional business and switching cost, skills and data needed to create criticism or complaint.

Customer Loyalty

Customer loyalty is a fundamental concept and the importance is extensively admitted by academics and practitioners (Peter, 1999; Eggert, 2000; Caruana, 2004; Singh and Agustin, 2005). Loyal customers always having positive attitude for the company as well as they do not give value to pricing and do not switch to other competitor (Caruana, 2004; Eggert, 2000; Jones and Farquhar, 2003; Staack, 2004). This has a positive effect on a company's profit (Caruana, 2004; Jones and Farquhar, 2003; Reichheld et al. 2000). Now a days, customer loyalty as an element for consumer complaint behavior (CCB), a triage by loyalty possibly will explain customer responses to a critical event affecting displeasure. Therefore, going focus on the part of this research is to study as antecedents, the customer loyalty (Eggert, 2000; Homburg et al. 2003; Jeker, 2002; Hill and Strauss, 2001; Herrmann et al. 2000; Crie, 2003; Peter, 1999). So, we are going to discuss on the

customer or consumer loyalty first. In the study it has been assumed that loyalty of a customer has consequences of behavioral and attitudinal (George and Thatcher, 2004; Aspinall et al. 2001; Caruana, 2004). Granbois and Blogett, (1992) introduced the construct from Hirschman, (1970) put forward about the loyal customers are doing more complain, lesser do exit and to do NWOM, when dissatisfaction with a product or could be with a service. Based on this it is hypothesized that:

 H_1 : There is a strongly positive association stuck between loyalty and CCB.

Attitude toward Complaining

Richins, (1987) said that attitudes are subjective believes that are in acceptability of a dissatisfied customers' gaining return from the company. With the services firms also other business firms acquire and retaining profitable and loyal consumers by providing socks knocking environment in the intensive competition (Anderson and Zemke, 2007; Makens et al. 1999). Therefore, mistakes are the thing which happens and occur frequently in service businesses, (Yavas et al. 2003). So, the firms must be ready to solve problems accordingly. Here they need to know the trend of market members, their behavior, in other words, attitudes towards complaining (Oh, 2006; Grace and Bodey, 2007; Tax and Blodgett, 1993). Many time researchers proved that complaining is affected in responses in terms of voices and negative words of mouth by attitudes (Oh, 2004; Day, 1984; Richins, 1982; Mason and Bearden, 1984). Complaints from those consumers or customers, those are confident in registering complain or having confidence for success. They make complaints comparatively those consumers which feel less confident to do complain (Grace and Bodey, 2007). Likewise, attitude towards complaining as attitude towards compensation seeking where, it is found the relations between compensation and attitudes is strongly positive (Joung and Cho, 1999). Similarly, the relation between 'attitude toward compensation seeking' and 'compensation seeking intention are supported (Richins, 1982). The consumers who are not seeking compensation towards the firm will just switch to other firm and with negative attitude there will be negative words of mouth behavior (Blodgett et al. 1995). Attitude for complains connected to behavioral intentions, generally, consumers having the positive attitude towards complaining have a greater tendency to complain (Grace and Bodey, 2007; Blodgett et al. 1995; Crockett and Bearden, 1981).

H₂: Attitude is positively influenced by CCB.

Past Experience

There is a range of theories on the consumer complaining behavior (Ladwein and Crie, 2002; Oliver, 1997; Folkes, 1984a; Johnston, 1995; Ganesh et al. 2000; Blodgett et al. 1997). Usually expectation disconfirmation is applied. In this theory, we studied that the initial expectation of customer linked to displeasure of consumer and the satisfaction is defined by the amount of displeasure (Wilton and Tse, 1988; Oliver 1980; Parasuraman et al. 1985; Anderson 1973; Dover and Olson, 1979). This is depended on consumer satisfactions expectations if he/she practiced other than his or her expectations definitely he will feel unhappy and do complain (Wilton and Tse,

1988; Drew and Bolton, 1991; Landon and Day, 1977; Gronroos, 2000; Oliver 1980; Surprenant and Churchill, 1983; Singh, 1988; Berry et al. 1985; Bearden, 1983). Discussions are made critically on the theory, conceptualized and empirically (De Carlo and Teas, 2004; Teas 1993; Taylor and Cronin, 1992). The basic concern of criticism has found that the space between provided and the expected service.

Ziethaml et al. (1993); Parasuraman and Berry, (1991) gave arguments on this and additional exploratory research study, a standard area of tolerance was developed. Separate points on a scale are not better comparatively than to portray expectations zone/range (Bloemer and Poiesz, 1991). The zone of tolerance must provide intervene among the consumer's desired degree of service and the degree where the consumer feel satisfactory (Parasuraman and Berry, 1991). This zone is a level where consumer feels acceptance. Strandvik, (1994) mentioned, in the boundaries variation would be acceptable by consumers is an aspect of tolerance zone and the ups and downs on the service quality perception will only be a marginal effect. It is obvious the performance exceeds out of range the quality service will defiantly affected (Johnston, 1995). Tronvoll, (2008b) and Stausset al. (2005) highlighted that if a consumer goes through an experience, which is below, or less than the acceptable levels in the tolerance zone, this would result in consumer frustration and increase level of possibility for complaining. Arndt and Hawes, (2007) mentioned that consumer dissatisfaction can be measure by level of complaints, higher level more complains. It depends, maximized bad experience, towards negative reactions; minimized bad experience, towards positivity and consequently good feelings, both feelings leading towards complaining behavior that could be in bad manner or complimentary.

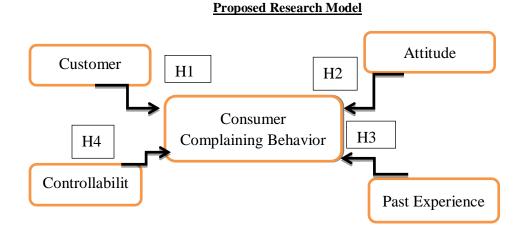
Han et al. (1995) discussed it very clearly, complaining behavior have a variety of factors' role on it, like demographic factors. Ferrer and Lee, (1999) mentioned that in age differences there is a change level of experience' dissatisfaction and change in consequent of complains. As (Edgecombe ETal., 1975; Morganosky and Mayer, 1987; Han et al. 1995; Herrman et al. 1975; London and Day, 1977) suggested that people who have got higher level in education comparatively do more complains than those having less education level because with the education people have got ways to do complains. Paim and Haron, (2008) have discussions on education and income level consumers and they said that people with high level of education and income have minimum problems in unfair and displeasure conditions in market comparatively. Due to the personality and mindset of a person, accordingly his/her personality different intervening variables resulted in postponed or hindrance from complaining with the fear of confrontation (Davidow and Dacin, 1997). People who are traditional in concepts must be less assertive with less self-confident and having a fear of complaining (Liu and Keng, 1997). Old age people do complaints not very much time, but in other case of age as youngsters they do and take actions (Lee and Ferrer, 1999). The hypothesis is give below:

H₃: Past experience has a positive influence on consumer complaining behavior.

Controllability

The unsatisfactory conditions or unpleasant environment that creates dissatisfaction for a consumer, the company could manage to control it; this could be positive influence of possibility of success. Folks, (1984) said customer's intentions of reaction of making a complaint is influenced by a product and services failure attributions and could be asked by the company to controlled, hindered and to do appropriate actions which are in terms of problem solving. So we are saying responsibility goes to company where the dissatisfaction condition identified as a failure in company's precaution, therefore in the result consumer will have belief that compensation of a complain would be in account and thus higher the success possibility. Singh, (1989) noted that consumer will be in high level of belief in making complaints to the company if the consumer attributes displeasure or dissatisfaction. This argument says:

H₄: Controllability of complain has a positive influence of consumer complaining behavior.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is descriptive in its nature. Descriptive research can be explained as describing something some phenomena or particular situation. Descriptive researches are those researches that describe the existing situation instead of interpreting and making judgments (Creswell, 1994). The main objective of the descriptive research is verification of the develop hypothesis that reflect the current situation. This type of research provide information about the current scenario and focus on past or present for example In recent times, tourism industry and researchers are more interested in customer complaint behaviors which offer opportunities for increasing customer satisfaction and profitability in developing customer management and marketing programs at enterprises /destinations (Rogers et al. 1992; Huang et al. 1996; Singh and Wilkes, 1996; Colgate and Norris, 2001).

Sample/Data

Papers of questionnaires were provided to the students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and they were requested to think that a situation relating a service failure that had happened to them (Yuksel et al. 2006; Levesque and McDougall, 1991). The target population of the study consists of students, employees, businessmen, unemployed and housewives. A part from Bahawalpur customer from Islamia University of Bahawalpur and from the market of Bahawalpur has been chosen for the sampling group. In the region the mostly preferred parts of Islamia University of Bahawalpur have been taken into consideration. The population samples of 200 respondents were asked to participate in a questionnaire. The population for this research is customer of Bahawalpur. The current study utilizes a known probability sampling technique that is "convince sampling". Convenience sampling is a sampling technique that obtains and collects the relevant information from the sample or the unit of the study that are conveniently available (Zikmunt 1997). Convince sampling is normally used for collecting a large number of completed surveys speedily and with economy (Lym et al. 2010).

Measure/Instruments

The survey instruments of the current study address two major purposes; first is to analyze the relationship of different variables in the adoption of customer complaining behavior. Second, to collect information about the different characteristic of the respondents that can be used to understand the variation in different categories. Questionnaire method has been used as the data gathering method. In the questionnaire consisting of two sections, the first section aims to find out some of the personal demographic features, such as sex, age, income, educational level and current status of the respondents, the second section consisting of 16 items and 5 dimensions aims to find out customer complaints behaviors.

Section 2 includes the latent variables that are important in the current study. These variables include loyalty, attitude, past experience and controllability towards customer complaining behavior. This section of the study is developed based on the past literature and already used questionnaire (Table 1). The scales of the study were adopted from the previous literature and published studies. We have total 5 variables of the study were loyalty, attitude, past experience, controllability and tendency to complain. Tendency to complain have 3 items, attitude towards complaining have 4 items, loyalty have 3, past experience have 3 and controllability have 3 items.

Procedure

The questionnaire was distributed among 200 respondents in Bahawalpur. These respondents are selected based on the criteria above mentioned. Before giving the questionnaire, the purpose of the study and question were explained to the respondent so they can easily fill the questionnaire with relevant responses. A total of 150 questionnaires were selected and rest of the questionnaire was not included in the further analysis due to incomplete or invalid responses. After collecting the

completed questionnaire, these questionnaires were coded and entered into the SPSS sheet for regression analysis.

Table-1. Scales of the study

No	Vowighles	Itoma	Table-1. Scales of the study	Defenences
No.	Variables Tendency To	Items 1.	I do not easily forget the unpleasant	References Singh 1989
1	Complain	1.	problems without complaining or protesting.	(determinants of customer
		2.	I absolutely complain on site (or in the next	complaint
		2	visit)to the staff or managers.	intention)
		3.	I absolutely ask for problems solving on site(or in the next visit).	
2	Customer Loyalty	1.	I would definitely recommended company "Stylo" & "Borjan" to someone who seeks my advice.	De Ruyter et al. 1998 (customer
		2.	I encourage relatives and friends to do business with company "Stylo" & "Borjan".	satisfaction, loyalty and commitment in
		3.	I intended to do more business with company "Stylo" & "Borjan" in the next few years.	service organizations)
3	Attitude Towards Complain	1.	I feel uncomfortable if not complain directly about dissatisfactory product or service to the company.	Blodgett et al. 1993 (determinants of
		2.	I feel obliged to complain directly about dissatisfactory product or service to the company.	customer complaint intention)
		3.	People should complain as it happens.	,
		4.	It is unnecessary to ask for change or return	
			if the failing product or service does not cost much.	
4	Past Experience	1.	Have you complained to a retail store in the last six months?	Blodgett et al. 1993
	Zaportonec	2.	Have you complained directly a lot to the	(determinants of
		3.	company? You have complained many times directly	customer complaint
		٥.	to the company?	intention)
5	Controllability	1.	The problem could have been prevented if	Singh 1989
	of Complain		I complain.	(determinants of
		2.	It would not happen if the store had been	customer
			more precautious.	complaint
		3.	Strictly speaking, I was partly responsible.	intention)

Reliability Analysis

Overall Cronbach's alphas of over study are more than acceptable and recommended value 0.50 by Nunnally, (1970) and 0.60 by Moss et al. (1998). This shows that all the 16 items were reliable and valid to measure the opinion of consumers towards customer complaining behavior.

Table-2. Reliability of Measurement Instrument.

Scales	Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Tendency to complaining	3	0.647
Customer Loyalty	3	0.555
Attitude Towards Complain	4	0.726
Past Experience	3	0.752
Controllability Of Complain	3	0.593

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Profile of the Respondents

Personal and demographic information such as sex, age, income, education level and status are in Table-4).

Table-4. Profile of the respondents

	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Variable			
Gender	Male	67	44.4
	Female	83	55
Age	15-20 years	59	39.1
	20-25 years	84	55.6
	25-30 years	3	2.0
	30-35 years	3	2.0
	35-40 years	1	0.7
Income	Below 15000	37	24.5
	15000-25000	44	29.11
	25000-35000	18	11.9
	35000-45000	6	4.0
	45000-55000	7	4.6
	Above 55000	9	6.0
Education	Matriculation	2	1.3
	Inter	8	5.3
	Bachelor	67	44.4
	Master	60	39.7
	MS/M.Phil.	12	7.9
	PHD	1	0.7
Status	Student	135	89.4
	Employed	10	6.6
	Businessman	3	2.0
	Housewife	2	1.3

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

Customer Loyalty and Tendency to Complain

According to the result of the study the variable of customer loyalty have an insignificant relationship with tendency to complain. Customer loyalty has an insignificant relationship with (β =

0.077) and (p > 0.296). This means the customer loyalty contribute more than 7% to tendency to complain. Result of the current study not supported in this research.

Attitude Towards Complain and Tendency to Complain

According to the result of the study the variable of attitude towards complain has a significant positive relationship with tendency to complain. Attitude towards complain has a significant positive relationship with ($\beta = 0.312$) and (p > 0.000). This means the attitude towards complain contribute more than 31% to tendency to complain. Result of the current study validates H_2 .

Past Experience

According to the result of the study the variable of past experience have a significant positive relationship with tendency to complain. Past experience has a significant positive relationship with ($\beta = 0.186$) and (p > 0.019). This means the past experience contribute more than 18% to tendency to complain. Result of the current study validates H_3 .

Attitude Loyalty P= .296 P = .000H2 $\beta = .077$ H1 $\beta = .312$ $R^2 = .307$ **Consumer Complaining** Behavior P=. 019 p = .010 $\beta = .208$ $\beta = .186$ H4 H3 Controllabilit Past Experience

Figure-2. Structural Model Results

Controllability of Complain

According to the result of the study the variable of controllability of complain has a significant positive relationship with tendency to complain. Controllability of complain has a significant

positive relationship with (β = 0.208) and (p > 0.010). This means the controllability of complain contribute more than 20% to tendency to complain. Result of the current study validates H_4 .

Table-5. Regression Results

Hypothesis	Model Variables	Estimates	S. E	C.R	P	Results
H1	TTC Customer	.077	.083	1.048	.296	Not
	Loyalty					Supported
H2	TTC Attitude	.312	.082	4.050	.000	Supported
H3	TTC — Past	.186	.066	2.378	.019	Supported
	Experience					
H4	TTC Controllability	.208	.081	2.596	.010	Supported

DISCUSSION

The observed studies in the current examination show that customer/consumer loyalty, attitudes toward complaint, controllability of complaint and the past experience are central contributing factor that touch consumer's propensity. These outcomes here give further range of standing theoretical studies of models and focus on complicated link toward variety of factors those intervening consumer's tendency of complaining for learning consumer complaining behavior (CCB). This current research study is working around not on behaviors but also on CCB, which empowers other common conclusion. This study is in account of relation of company with consumer. In term of appreciation a consumer for complaining, and company to do better and appropriate possible actions when a complaint comes. The results obtained from the analysis permitted us to verify the established hypothesis and to understand the relationship between different variables of customer complaining behavior model.

In the past research work we have studied, loyal customers always having positive attitude for the company as well as they do not give value to pricing and do not switch to other competitor (Caruana, 2004; Eggert, 2000; Jones and Farquhar, 2003; Staack, 2004). Now a day, customer loyalty as an element for (CCB), a triage by loyalty possibly will explain customer responses to a critical event affecting displeasure. Therefore, going to focus on the part of this research study as antecedents, the customer loyalty (Eggert, 2000; Homburg et al. 2003; Jeker, 2002; Hill and Strauss, 2001; Herrmann et al. 2000, Crie, 2003; Peter, 1999). We assume a hypothesis loyal customer do more complains to the company. There is a strongly positive association stuck between loyalty and CCB. But in this research, in a particular area of Bahawalpur we have found that the result is not supported on the basis of significant value (p = 0.296), the hypothesis is rejected.

Richins, (1987) said that attitudes are subjective believes that are in acceptability of a dissatisfied customers' gaining return from the company. Here, in this study we assume a hypothesis, the more positivity in their attitude about complaining, the higher the CCB; the fact of the variable is

significant on attitude consumer complaining behavior which, demonstrate that the attitude of the complaining is highly conditioned by the perception. Attitude for complains connected to behavioral intentions, generally, consumers having the positive attitude towards complaining have a greater tendency to complain (Grace and Bodey, 2007; Blodgett et al. 1995; Crockett and Bearden, 1981). Past practices of a consumer complaint give a concept to do protest against the dissatisfactory (Singh, 1989; Wilkes and Singh, 1996). In the other words it is saying that consumers having an experience of registering complain, they could tell the way to express of protest, how a company will give compensate. Singh and Wilkes, (1996) gave arguments on the past experience and attitudes, according to them there must be affects between past experience and attitudes, because the people having the practice know the criteria and if they do complain there will be positive attitude more than last time. This tells us past experience have a positive influence on consumer complaining behavior. The concept of identifying a problem and then manage to control the complaint is responsibility of firm. A service or product failure is a reason that would affect consumer displeasure (Folkes, 1984). Here we have found if controllability of a company is resulting in more feedback from consumers and consumers do more complaints. As the study of Folkes's (1984) says, consumers with the confident of compensation, due to the control of company on problem feel strengthen to do complain. The outcome of this controllability is in favor of assumption.

Limitation

Limitations of this study are that it is conducted in a small town of Bahawalpur, which is able to vary in alternative universities. Thus the conclusion has to be more examined by studies of alternative universities to check if it works. And there are many potential factors which may have an effect on customers' tendency to complain that ought to be taken into thought in follow-up studies. Finally the author has not enclosed the link between the tendency and therefore the real behavior, among that the latter is a lot of value in terms of managerial practices. As a result a customer's tendency to complain is truly into real behavior ought to be taken into consideration in further studies.

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