A STUDY OF SPUR OF GREEN PRODUCTS ON CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

AUTHOR:ANITA VERMA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

ABSTRACT:

Green marketing is a marketing practice in which manufactured goods marketing splurging to product discarding transpires in behavior, a reduced amount of harm to the milieu. Product modification, vicissitudes in the manufacturing process, parceling variations, and adjusting yield persuasive endeavors are all examples of green marketing practices. Environmentally friendly products that are assumed to be "green" related to suppressed -slung power guzzling electricity usage, biological foodstuffs, nonleaded paints, biodegradable paper, and so on have gotten a lot of attention from both consumers and producers.

Keywords: Green Products, Consumer Behavior, Sustainability, Eco-Friendly Environment.

INTRODUCTION:

Green marketing refers to an all-encompassing marketing technique in which a product's marketing spending to product disposal occurs in a modus that is less harmful to the ecosystem. With budding consciousness of the allusions of global warming and the detrimental effects of pollutants on the environment, both marketers and customers are growing to be progressively perceptive to the necessity to switch over to green harvests and services. As a consequence of environmental deterioration, which contributes to global concerns, green marketing has recently gotten a lot of attention around the world. On the one hand, as the commercial domain becomes more socially conscious, consumers are a growing force. Consequently, it would also be inspiring to communicate consumer attitudes and responses to these marketing efforts.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

The predicted manifestation of a green spring-back has encouraged copious traders to be engrossed in an extensive assortment of environmentally friendly merchandise pacts. (Vandermerwe, 1990). Many marketers engendered the rejoinder of anxious consumers, which grew to be an extension of compassion, marketplace segment, of their endeavors. The communication that eco-friendly incongruities have fashioned as a factor contributing towards market growths for environmentally responsive goods turning into hard-hitting opportunities (Wong, 1996). They can select to price by product line, as a mandate for green products is already increasing and price cuts will only give a boost. Amongst all the main influences, the main characteristic that promoted the response was disparagement regarding green products, green entitlements, and corporate intents. Consumers instigated to be ecologically friendly and more aware of the Progressively, the escalation of ecological consumerism has directed to undeviating broadened consuming credence recognized as ethical consumerism (Oksanen, 2004). Ethical consumerism supports customer demeanor that reflects the angst with the headaches that soar from immoral and detrimental physical actions as an occurrence infant labor, breach of citizens' rights, etc. Hofstede (2001) pronounced India as a social order employing colorful collectivized

personalities. This recommends that there may be enthusiasm for developing into a more social credential.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- 1. To comprehend how green marketing is understood by consumers.
- 2. To investigate whether eco-friendly products influence consumers more positively in influencing purchase behavior.
- 3. To discover the factors which indicate a change towards the purchase of green products.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study adapted **Kvale's** (1996), seven-a stage model of conducting an interview. The study was conducted using an in-depth interview technique with twenty-five participants who were from varied backgrounds and belonged to the population of the city 'Delhi NCR'. The study used an open-ended, exploration-oriented method, which enabled a detailed discovery of the participants' feelings and perspectives about green or ecofriendly products.

CONSIDERATION OF DIVERSE CONSIDERATIONS:

A predisposition for Green Products:

In consumer durable categories like phones, TV, cars, electronic gadgets consumers believe that making such products with the least harm to nature would always be preferred. While in consumer non – durables there is a growing demand for the ingesting of biological foodstuff products, cosmetics, clothing. Using the probing technique which guided the participants to respond with examples, the interviewees were asked to discuss their preferred product category for green products. It was found that consumers equally prefer green products in both consumer durable and consumer non - durable categories.

Transformations in Buying Pronouncement:

Most of the participants approved that the onslaught of non - biodegradable products cast a much harmful impact on our environment and if we continue to practice and support the same then we are actually without realizing digging graves for our children and generations to come. It was observed through the interview responses that their consumers are rapidly becoming aware and switching their buying habits from conventional products to green products.

However, a few respondents were of divergent views and pointed out that the preference of a product does not completely depend upon its green origin as these products are generally many times higher than non - green products.

Repetition of Shopping for Eco-friendly products

When respondents were asked about their shopping frequency of green products ten of the twenty-five participants reported going shopping once or more than once a week and specifically lookout to buy green products. While nine participants stated to go shopping once every two weeks and they buy green products in food and cosmetics and clothing. Six of them revealed that they shop once a month for buying green products. As shown in Table I below:

Table I: Rate of Recurrence of Shopping Eco-friendly products

Shopping	Frequency
Weekly	10
Fortnightly	9
Monthly	6

Disposition in Product Category

Interview participants were also enquired about where they like to go shopping for green products. A glaring majority of eleven participants reported their preference to shop for such products at the malls, supermarkets, and retail stores, and fourteen of the interviewees informed that they prefer to go to traditional/local shopping places and conventional markets.

Cost Contemplations

A very few respondents also said they are not ready to compromise with their preferences for green products even if a low-cost non - green product is offered to them at throwaway prices. Most of the respondents pointed out that it is true that green products are higher in prices and that probably is the only stumbling block that deters a consumer from buying them. If there is a small difference in the price then that would not matter.

Visual Pull and Packaging

The majority of the participants remarked that an impressive logo or visual appeal invokes an assurance of the product's excellent functional and hedonic utilities and thus influences their buying decision having visual appeal on a product which is pro-environmental impacts positively on consumers. The respondents added that an impressive logo or visual appeal invokes an assurance of the product's excellent functional and hedonic utilities and thus influences their buying decision. The respondents also find visual elements to be playing a pivotal role in their purchase decisions.

CONCLUSION:

The majority of the consumers during the interview sessions also confirmed their decision to buy green products for several reasons including the influence of the peer group. The selling communiqué concerning green attempts requirements to emphasize further on matter and message. Markets need to be in the topmost of attention reminiscence of consumers to reap the greatest from their green brand aligning. Continual communiqué from the establishments' side is vital to formulate an impression and generate a discrete green aligning. There exist a huge likelihood that can be leveraged by dealers by way of the empathetic understanding of consumers' stance in the direction of green products, for example, marketers firstly should begin with the education of the consumer through effective advertising and other promotional tools as it is observed that more the consumer is aware of the positive impact of consuming green more he/she is likely to buy the same.

IMPLICATIONS FOR MARKETERS:

Imminent research could concentrate on the psychographics division of purchasers concerning evaluating green ethics and predilections. The study can be simulated at a greater measure to change to added perceptions into the comportment of consumers and comprehend added just about the green portent. The study has insinuations along with consumers and builds a virtuous instance for the flinch of the age of green marketing in India. The study meanwhile captivated on a restricted ecological expanse has restricted generalizability but affords virtuous acumens concerning the behavior of consumers on the road to green products.

REFERENCES:

Antil, J. H. (1984). Socially Responsible Consumers: Profile and Implications for Public Policy. *Journal of Macromarketing*, Fall, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 18-39.

Antonio, C., Sergio, R., Francisco, M. J. (2009). Characteristics of Research on Green Marketing. *Business Strategy and the Environment*. Vol. 18, pp. 223-239.

Braimah, M and Tweneboah-Koduah, E. H. (2011). An Exploratory Study of the Impact of Green Brand Awareness on Consumer Purchase Decision in Ghana. *Journal of Marketing Development and Competitiveness*, Vol. 5, No. 7, pp. 11-18.

Charter, M. and Polonsky, M.J. (1999). Green Marketing: A Global Perspective on Green Marketing Practices, Greenleaf Publications, Sheffield.

Cherian, J. and Jacob, J. (2012). Green Marketing: A Study of Consumers' Attitude towards Environment Friendly Products. *Journal of Asian Social Science*, Vol. 8, No. 12, pp. 117-126.

Crispell, D. (2001). Going Green(ish). Public Perspective, September/October 2001, pp. 28-30.

Davidson, A. R., Yantis, S., Norwood, M. and Montano, D. E. (1985). Amount of Information about the Attitude Object and Attitude Behavior Consistency. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Vol. 49, No. 5, pp. 1184-1198.

Davis, Joel J. (1992). Ethics and Environmental Marketing. *Journal of Business Ethics*. Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 81-87. Freeman, R. E. and Liedtka. J. (1991). Corporate Social Responsibility: A Critical Approach. *Business Horizons*. Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 92-98.

Gadenne, D., Sharma, B., Kerr, D. and Smith, T. (2011). The Influence of Consumers' Environmental Beliefs and Attitudes on Energy Saving Behaviors. *Energy Policy*, Vol. 39, No. 12, pp. 7684-7694.

Ghosh, M. (2010). Green Marketing – A changing concept in changing time. BVIMR Management Edge, 4 (1), 82-92.

Haws, K. L., Winterich, K. P., and Naylor, R. W. (2010). Green Consumer Values. Handbook of Marketing Scales, 3rd Edition, pp. 172-173

Henion, K. E. and Kinnear, T. C. (1976). Measuring the Effect of Ecological Information and Social Class on Selected Product Choice Criteria Importance Ratings, Ecological Marketing, Chicago: American Marketing Association, pp. 145-156.

Howe, J., Bratkovich, S., Bowyer, J., Fernholz, K., and Stai, S. (2010). Green Marketing-Growing Sales in Growing Markets, *Dovetail Partners INC*.

Juwaheer, T. D. (2005). Emerging Shades of Green Marketing Conscience Among the Population of a Small Island Economy-A Case Study on Mauritius. Source:

Keller, G. M. (1987) Industry and the Environment: Toward a New Philosophy. *Vital Speeches*. Vol. 54, No. 7, pp. 154-157.

Kumar, P. D. (December 2010). Green Marketing: A start to environmental safety. Advances in Management, 4 (12). 59-61.

Kvale, S. (1996). Interviews: An introduction to qualitative research interviewing. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Mainiery, T., Barnett, E. G., Valdera, T. R., Unipan, J. B., and Oskamp, S. (1997). Green Buying: The Influence of Environmental Concern on Consumer Behavior. *Journal of Social Psychology*, Vol. 137, No. 2, pp. 189-204.

Mendleson, N., and Polonsky, M.J. (1995). Using strategic alliances to develop credible green marketing. Journal of Consumer Marketing, 12 (2), pp. 4-18.

Neff, J. (2009, April 20). Green-Marketing Revolution Defies Economic Downturn: Sustainable-Product Sales Rise as Eco-Friendliness Goes Mainstream and Value Players Join the Trend. Retrieved December 21, 2012.

Ottman, Jacquelyn. (1998). Green Marketing: Opportunity for Innovation. NTC Business Books, 2nd Edition.

Peattie, K., and Crane, A. (2005). Green marketing: legend, myth, farce or prophesy, Qualitative Market Research, 8 (4), 357-70.

Polonsky, M. J. (1994). An Introduction to Green Marketing. *Electronic Green Journal, Issue # 2 UCLA Library, UC Los Angeles*.

Porter, M. E., and Claas van der Linde. (1995). Green and Competitive: Ending the Stalemate. *Harvard Business Review, September-October* (1995), pp.119-134.

Renfro, L. A. (2010) Green Business Operations and Green Marketing. *Gatton Student Research Publication*. Vol. 2, No. 2.

Shafaat, A.; Sultan, A. (2012). Green Marketing. *Excel International Journal of Multidisciplinary Management Studies*. Vol. 2, No. 5.

Uusitalo, O., and Oksanen, R. (2004). Ethical consumerism: a view from Finland. International Journal of Consumer Studies, 28 (3), 214-21.

Vandermerwe, S., and Oliff, M.D. (1990). Customers drive corporations green, Long Range Planning, 23 (6), 10-16.

Wong, V., Turner, W., and Stoneman, P. (1996). Marketing strategies and market prospects for environmentally-friendly consumer products. British Journal of Management, 7 (3), 263-81.

