

A study on consumer awareness, attitude and preference towards herbal products with special reference to Tiruchirappalli district

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Research Article

A study on consumer awareness, attitude and preference towards herbal products with special reference to Tiruchirappalli district

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Abstract

Herbal products are not just the domain of women more body sprays, perfumes and other herbal products with rising demand from men, the Indian market is getting enlarged and many players are coming out with cosmetic products especially skin care products for women and men Globalization will certainly increase cosmetic products penetration and all professional shall equip themselves to exploit opportunities offered by this sector. This gives me an opportunity to work on with endeavor focusing on the consumer perception and satisfaction of women towards herbal products with special reference to Herbal Products. The primary objective of this study is to understand the consumer perception and satisfaction studying the awareness of the products within the consumers and the number of consumers who consumes the Herbal products.

Key words: Herbal, Herbal products, Attitude

Introduction

The concept of beauty and herbal products is an ancient as mankind and civilization women are obsessed with looking beautiful. So they use various beauty products that have herbs to look charm and young. Indian herbs and its significance are popular worldwide. Herbal products have growing demand in the nature. There are a wide range of women around the world. The Indian herbal products industry has a plethora of herbal products brands like Himalaya Herbal, Lotus Herbal, Khadi Herbal, and many more adding to the list. The Indian herbal products market is defined as skin care, hair care, color herbal products, fragrances and oral care segments. It's worth US \$19.3 billion in 2014 and is expected to grow at 15-20 % according to the analysis of this sector. Today awareness of beauty products, treatment, fashion and grooming are very high.

Statement of the problem

Consumers are the masters of their money and they have an enormous influence on the economic market change because they possess the ability to implement and coordinate their choice of spending or saving in the purchase decision. Consumers are influenced by their attitude towards the product and therefore marketers need to implement their strategies and tactics frequently in order to achieve more

consumers. Satisfaction and accurate target in finding out what customers are aware of and their attitude and there by offering products according to this need will help the industry stake holders to enrich their customer experience and accelerate growth of the market. The process that turns marketing plans into marketing actions In order to fulfill strategic marketing objectives it is called marketing plan but most of the markets are still challenged by their marketing. Hence this research aims to explore the consumer's awareness and attitude preference towards herbal cosmetic products with special reference to Tiruchirappalli district.

Objectives

- To study the consumer awareness of herbal cosmetic products.
- To study about the factor influencing the consumer to use the herbal cosmetic products.
- To study the level of consumer satisfaction towards herbal cosmetic products.

Scope of the study

The present study will be helpful in understanding the consumer attitude of the different strata people in the Indian society especially in Tiruchirappalli district, Tamil Nadu towards Herbal Cosmetic Products. The classification of the different strata of the people in area wise, gender wise, age wise, income wise, etc..., The study will also be helpful in analyzing the customer attitude towards the different factors identified after the focus group discussions for the future studies by the researchers and academicians. It will also help in studying the effect of herbal products purchase of the study specifically among the segment under consideration.

Methodology

The methodology adopted for the present study consists of six parts they are

Nature of research design

The research design adopted in the study was descriptive design, which is concerned with the descriptive of a group. In descriptive research in such a way that the respondents are able to understand clearly what the researcher wants and provides distinct information to measure the data.

Area of the study

The area of the study is in Tiruchirappalli district.

Period of the study

The study was conducted for a period of six months.

Sources of data

The study is based on primary data collection. The data has been collected from the users of herbal products. The secondary data was collected from the articles, journals, newspapers and various websites; it has been used in the review of literature, chapter and profile of the organizations.

Sampling design of the study

The sampling technique in this project is convenient sampling. The sample size comprises of different types of users who are using herbal cosmetic products. A sample of 50 respondents was considered for finding their uses for the herbal products.

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Tools for Analysis

The following are the tools applied on the respondents given by the respondents to analyze and derive the result.

Karl Pearson's co-efficient of correlation

Average Ranking analysis

Chi-square analysis

Limitation of the study

1. The area was wide since it is confined only to Tiruchirappalli district so results cannot be universally accepted.
2. The study is limited to the sample size of 50 respondents only. So this cannot be a "full proof"
3. The researcher has collected data by convenient sampling using questionnaire and there is a possibility of certain deviations.

Review of literature

Mitra & Kapoor (1999) state tannins are important complex organic compounds; such are partially covered in vegetable color yielding materials. These are important agro-chemical. Which create affinity between adjective dyes and hairs? The main source of tannins is the bark and wood of acacia, oak, wattle, etc.

According to the study conducted by Dr. Vinith Kumar Nair and Dr. Prakash Pillai R (2007) male consumers generally prefer to purchase and make the brand selection of herbal products individually. Quality is the major factor influencing the purchase decision of male consumers. They tend to buy cosmetic items from a single shop of their convenience. It is also observed that male consumers buy all their cosmetic items from one shop.

As Fan Shean Cheng, Cheng Soon Ooi and Ding Hooi Ting (2010) have observed that there is a significant and positive relationship between male's concern towards self-image and their consumption of male grooming products. In their study on women's buying behaviour of personal care products, Sundari and Murugan (2011) revealed that the factors influencing purchase decision of personal care products are "primary benefit" and "secondary benefit".

The primary benefit includes price, quality, and quantity. However, the "secondary benefit" includes ingredients of the product, the purpose of the product, innovative features, manufacturer's reputation, and certification of the product.

According to the study conducted by Ashok Yakkaldevi (2013) on the consumer behavior towards herbal products apart from psychology and economics the role of history and tradition in shaping the Indian consumer behavior is quite unique. Consumers are also associated with values of care and affection.

Profile of herbal products brands

Himalaya Herbals

Himalaya Herbals is a range of 100% natural and safe products with rare herbs collected from the foothills of the Himalayas. Each product combines the best of Ayurveda with years of dedicated research.

Lotus Herbals

Lotus Herbals is India's leading natural herbal products company. Combining ancient wisdom from the Vedas with 21st century technology, it's range of over 250 skin care, hair care, sun care and make-up products for the retail and professional markets.

Vaadi Herbals

Vaadi herbals pvt ltd has combined Ayurvedic science with modern technology to develop a whole new range of personal care products. Its range consists of hair care, skin care, and face care and body care products enriched with the extracts of best quality natural herbs to cater to the needs of the whole family. **Just Herbs**

Just Herbs is a company which is the embodiment of the old or traditional and the new or modern. The

AurvedicBhaishajyas (texts) makes it old and new because it brings forward the modern ready-to-use forms.

Biotique

Biotique products have been made by incorporating the ancient Ayurvedic therapies and fusing them with the latest bio-technological innovations to be able to bring to consumers herbal products and skin care product that are chemical free and completely safe for the skin and hair.

Forest Essentials

There is no „quick fix“ method for eternal youth. Only naturally distilled pure essential oils, pure cold pressed, organically grown vegetable oils and plant extracts should be used in skin applications.

Jovees Herbal

JOVEES, a line of Herbal and Ayurvedic products is result of an extensive research aligning the Power of Herbs and Power of science. Jovees introduce the quality product for Skin, Hair and Body Care. Today JOVEES has 115 SKU's with 85 Products in its port

Analysis and Interpretation

a)KARL PEARSON'S CO-EFFICIENT OF CORRELATION TABLE - 1

Let monthly family income per month of the respondents taken as (X) and spending for herbal product per month of the respondents taken as (Y).

Coefficient of correlation Income and Spending Level on Herbal Cosmetic Products per Month

Income	spend	$x = X - \bar{x}$	$y = Y - \bar{y}$	X^2	Y^2	xy
17	21	4.5	8.5	20.25	72.25	38.25
14	17	1.5	4.5	2.25	20.25	6.75
10	7	-2.5	-5.5	6.25	30.25	13.75
9	5	-3.5	-7.5	12.25	56.25	26.25
50	50	0	0	41	179	85

The correlation value between family income per month and spending for herbal product per month is 1. So there exist of perfect positive correlation between the two factors.

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b) AVERAGE RANKING ANALYSIS

Average ranking analysis is used to analyse the ranks given by the respondents for various factors, the weights has given to various ranks and total scores are calculated based in total scores and then the ranks are allotted according to average ranking scores.

TABLE - 2 AVERAGE RANKING ANALYSIS
Ranking Factor Influencing by the Respondents

Factors	6	5	4	3	2	1	Total	Mean	Rank
Price	8	10	10	9	8	5	50		
Score	48	50	40	27	16	5	186	3.72	4
Quality	13	11	10	8	4	4	50		
Score	78	55	40	24	8	4	209	4.18	1
Quantity	12	12	9	8	6	3	50		
Score	72	60	36	24	12	3	207	4.14	2
Packing	6	8	9	11	9	7	50		
Score	36	40	36	33	18	7	170	3.4	5
Flavour	7	5	7	8	11	12	50		
Score	42	25	63	24	22	12	188	3.76	3
offer	4	4	5	6	12	19	50		
Score	24	20	20	18	24	19	125	2.5	6

The above table reveals that the respondents have assigned “Quality” was the primary factor (Rank I) and “Price” as the next factor (Rank II), third rank to flavor, fourth rank to quantity, fifth rank to packing, and sixth rank to offer.

c) CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS

(I) Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between age of respondents and period of using the products by the respondents.

TABLE - 3
Age and Period of Using the Products

	Period of Using the Products				
	Less than a year				
Below 20 Years	4(45%)	3(33%)	1(11%)	1(11%)	9(100%)
21-30 Years	2(18%)	4(36%)	3(28%)	2(18%)	11(100%)
31-40 Years	1(6%)	3(19%)	8(50%)	4(25%)	16(100%)
Above 40 Years	0	1(7%)	7(50%)	6(43%)	14(100%)
Total	7	11	19	13	50

Since $X^2 = 16.919$ for 9 degree of freedom at 5% level and $X_0^2 < X_c^2$ the null hypothesis is rejected. So there is a significant relationship between age and period of using the products.

(II) Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between Educational Qualification and level of satisfaction about herbal product.

TABLE - 4
Educational Qualification and Satisfaction level of herbal cosmetic products

Educational Qualification	Satisfaction level of herbal cosmetic products					
	Highly	satisfied	Average	dissatisfied	Highly	Total
Illiterate	3(43%)	1(14%)	2(29%)	1(14%)	0	6(100%)
Up to school level	3(33%)	3(33%)	2(23%)	1(11%)	0	9(100%)
Under graduate	5(42%)	3(25%)	2(17%)	1(8%)	1(8%)	12(100%)
Post graduate	3(23%)	4(31%)	4(31%)	2(15%)	0	13(100%)
Professional	2(23%)	4(44%)	1(11%)	1(11%)	1(11%)	9(100%)
Total	16	15	11	6	2	50

Since $X_{e2} = 26.296$ for 16 degree of freedom at 5% level and $X_{02} > X_{e2}$ the null hypothesis is accepting. So there is no relationship between educational qualification and level of satisfaction about herbal products.

Findings

There exist of perfect positive correlation between the two factors. I.e. family income per month of the respondents and spend for herbal product per month of the respondents.

Majority of respondents, ranked first to quality of the product.

There is a significant relationship between age and period of using the products.

There no relationship between Educational Qualification and level of satisfaction about herbal products.

Suggestions

The price of the herbal product can be reduced which would attract more customers.

The manufacturers could reduce the chemical combination in the herbal products.

The manufacturers can conduct a survey for knowing the consumer need.

Window display is also an attractive method for attracting the minds of the people, especially the housewives.

Conclusion

The study reveals that most of the respondents are aware of the herbal products. The people now are not considering the herbal products as luxury, most of the consumers feel that there are more chemicals in herbal products, which cause many side effects, and started switching over to herbal based herbal products. The cosmetic manufacturing company after realizing the need of the customer started providing herbal based herbal products. Many respondents feel that there are more chemical combinations in the herbal products, which can be reduce by the manufactures, so that it would increase its usage by the customers. This study enables the manufactures to know the need and preference of the customers which can be implemented by them to improve their products.

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