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THE EFFECT OF MOBILE PHONE ON THE GROWTH OF E-COMMERCE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

PARDEEP KUMAR ASST. PROFESSOR RAJKIYA KANYA MAHAVIDYALYA SHIMLA

ABSTRACT

The expansion of e-commerce in Himachal Pradesh has been significantly impacted by the widespread use of mobile phones. With the increasing accessibility of smartphones and mobile internet connectivity, this picturesque state has witnessed a remarkable surge in online shopping activities. Mobile phones have become a gateway to the world of e-commerce for the people of Himachal Pradesh, enabling them to explore a vast array of products and services at their fingertips. One of the most significant effects of mobile phones on e-commerce growth in Himachal Pradesh is expanding the customer base. Remote areas that were once inaccessible to traditional brick-and-mortar stores can now access e-commerce platforms via their mobile devices. This has facilitated economic growth in rural regions and provided consumers with a broader range of choices and competitive pricing. Moreover, mobile apps and websites tailored to the preferences and needs of the local population have further accelerated the adoption of e-commerce. The convenience of shopping from home, coupled with secure mobile payment options, has boosted consumer confidence in online transactions. The researcher had conducted the study survey with the help of a questionnaire on 217 respondents involved in e-commerce to know the role and "effect of mobile phone on the growth of e-commerce" in Himachal Pradesh and concludes that there is significant "effect of mobile phone on the growth of e-commerce" in Himachal Pradesh.

KEYWORDS

mobile internet connectivity, online shopping activities, e-commerce growth, mobile apps, online transactions.

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INTRODUCTION

1 n recent years, the charming state of Himachal Pradesh, nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, has undergone a remarkable transformation in its retail land-scape. This transformation can be attributed to the widespread adoption of mobile phones, which have significantly impacted the growth of e-commerce in the region. With the increasing accessibility of smartphones and mobile internet connectivity, Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a digital revolution that has revolutionized the way people shop and conduct business.

The proliferation of smartphones in Himachal Pradesh has been nothing short of astonishing. The state, once known for its remote and inaccessible terrains, is now equipped with the latest mobile technology. This accessibility has bridged the gap between urban and rural areas, allowing residents from even the most remote regions to participate actively in the e-commerce ecosystem. As a result, the customer base for e-commerce platforms in Himachal Pradesh has expanded exponentially, presenting businesses with a broader market to tap into.

One of the most significant effects of mobile phones on e-commerce growth in Himachal Pradesh is the empowerment of rural communities. In the past, these communities faced significant challenges when it came to accessing a variety of products and services. The absence of physical stores and limited transportation options often left them with limited choices. However, with the advent of mobile phones, the shopping experience has been democratized. Villagers and townspeople alike can now explore a vast array of products and services at their fingertips, without having to travel long distances. This not only encourages economic development in rural areas but also improves the quality of life for locals by enabling access to an extensive range of products and services.

Mobile apps and websites tailored to the preferences and needs of the local population have further accelerated the adoption of e-commerce in Himachal Pradesh. These platforms offer a personalized shopping experience, catering to the unique tastes and requirements of the region. This customization goes beyond language preferences; it extends to product selections, payment options, and delivery logistics. As a result, consumers feel more connected to the e-commerce ecosystem, fostering a sense of trust and loyalty.

Furthermore, the convenience factor cannot be underestimated. The people of Himachal Pradesh have embraced the ease of shopping from the comfort of their homes or while on the go, thanks to their mobile devices. With a few taps on a screen, they can browse through catalogues, compare prices, and make informed purchase decisions. This convenience is especially valuable in a state with diverse climatic conditions, where travelling to physical stores can often be challenging, particularly during harsh winters.

Security in online transactions has also been a significant driver of e-commerce growth. Mobile phones offer secure payment options, such as mobile wallets and digital payment gateways, which have gained the trust of consumers. This has eliminated one of the major barriers to e-commerce adoption – concerns about the safety of financial transactions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

It was revealed that while the growth of mobile e-commerce is linked to a rise in overall platform purchases, there is presently no noteworthy disparity in user behaviour between mobile applications and conventional Internet sites (Einav et. al., 2014). Excluding online purchases made by unemployed people and internet purchases made by users who don't utilise mobile devices, the majority of factors have a positive effect on the growth and advancement of e-commerce (Bădîrcea et. al., 2021).

The mobile commerce business in South Africa has shown significant expansion, yet there is a lack of corresponding adoption among Generation Y consumers. A survey of 204 individuals belonging to Generation Y indicates that there exists a positive relationship between the frequency of mobile commerce usage and five factors associated with the acceptance of mobile commerce. This provides valuable information for marketers and business professionals, emphasising the potential advantages of enhanced utilisation of financial performance, environmental responsibility, and customer loyalty (Dlodlo & Mafini, 2013). The potential for ecommerce growth in India is contingent upon the provision of legal security and framework by the Government, as well as the expansion of basic rights for domestic and international trade, including intellectual property, privacy, fraud prevention, and consumer protection (Mahipal & Shankaraiah, 2018).

The factors influencing mobile phone usage among informal micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in Kenya were examined. The findings indicate that education plays a crucial role in determining e-commerce usage, emphasising the need for the government to establish a conducive climate (Ntale & Litondo, 2013). Behavioural attitudes and subjective norms play a significant role in affecting the readiness to upgrade among rural e-merchants. The positive correlation between increased online sales and revenue and improved attitudes is evident, although the impact of subjective standards on willingness is notable (Wang & Zhang, 2023). Mobile commerce provides consumers with convenience and accessibility. Factors such as self-efficacy, innovativeness, usefulness, perceived ease of use, security, and subjective norm have a favourable impact on consumers' intention to utilise this electronic commerce channel (Mollick et. al., 2023). The significance of innovation and e-commerce models in fostering sustainable growth on a global scale cannot be overstated, and the pillars of Dubai serve as a prominent illustration of this phenomenon. The Emirate of Dubai offers an illustrative example, showcasing the correlation between a conducive environment, government investments, and the advancement of e-commerce development and technological adoption. The analysis is performed using a research approach focused on organic growth, which offers significant insights for stakeholders (Faccia et. al., 2023).

The adoption of e-commerce is negatively influenced by factors such as business size, cash sales, website presence, and intranet access. Conversely, the adoption of e-commerce is positively influenced by access to email, computers, and the Internet (Ahmad et. al., 2015). The global adoption of mobile payment methods has been on the rise; nevertheless, there is a dearth of research examining the effects of this phenomenon on customer well-being. It is revealed that the utilisation of mobile payment methods induces a hedonic attitude, leading to a heightened inclination towards hedonic products. This effect is influenced by the type of device being used for the mobile payment transaction (Yu et. al., 2023).

The findings of a survey indicate that the inclination towards e-commerce and m-commerce is contingent upon the particular circumstances surrounding online buying. For specialists in the domains of branding, marketing and distribution, the information offered is extremely valuable, as it enables them to formulate efficient plans for enhancing their online presence and maximising revenue (Khan et. al., 2023). An attempt was made to discern the distinction between consumer involvement and reuse intention within the realm of mobile commerce. Specifically, three categories of mobile commerce are examined: branded content-type commerce, review content-type commerce and home shopping content-type commerce. The findings indicated that Engagement was positively influenced by interaction, content knowledge, attention, time and resource constraints, ubiquity, system quality, usability, and customer involvement. The results indicate variations among various forms of mobile business (Wang & Choi, 2022).

The trend of the growth of e-commerce during the COVID-19 epidemic and the preferred online purchasing technology (mobile or traditional) varied significantly between nations, and most importantly, the unique characteristics of each country, including historical experiences, cultural context, and prevailing shopping behaviours, which influenced the advancement of online commerce (Chmielarz et. al., 2022). The adoption and utilisation of mobile commerce among craftsmen in Ghana were examined. The analysis focuses mostly on variables including perceived utility, usability, subjective standards, age, gender, level of competence, and education. Notable impacts were revealed on adoption and usage, with the exception of gender, perceived ease of use, and subjective standards. Practitioners must prioritise customer-centric aspects, with a particular emphasis on targeting younger demographics and fostering user retention through the cultivation of behavioural intentions and attitudes. The application of the conceptual model on a worldwide scale facilitates the analysis of research on technological acceptance. There is a suggestion that the adoption of mobile commerce has the potential to facilitate the transition towards a cashless society, hence enhancing the efficiency and convenience of purchasing transactions. Future research has the potential to enhance the study by increasing the sample size to encompass all sixteen areas in Ghana, or alternatively, by incorporating other nations. This would result in a more comprehensive representation of the population under investigation (Asampana et. al., 2022).

Romanian customers' preferences, gadgets, and variables impacting their usage of mobile technology for commerce (m-commerce) among Generation Z were examined. It was found that Generation Z preferred m-commerce, thus helping enterprises develop marketing tactics to enhance sales through these channels (Puiu et. al., 2022).

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objective of the study is to know the role and the "effect of mobile phone on the growth of e-commerce" in Himachal Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher had conducted the study survey with the help of a questionnaire on 217 respondents involved in e-commerce to know the role and effect of mobile phone on the growth of e-commerce in Himachal Pradesh. The primary data is collected through "convenient sampling method" and data was analyzed by "mean and t-test."

FINDINGS

Respondent's general details are shared in the table below where in 217 respondents, males are 56.7% and females are 43.3%. 35.0% are below 42 years of age, 37.8% comes in the category of 42-48 years of age group and 27.2% are above 48 years of age. 37.3% of them are in retail business, 41.5% in services and rest 21.2% are in other e-commerce business.

Variable Respondent | Percentage Gender Male 123 56.7 Female 94 43.3 Total 217 100 Age (years) 76 35.0 Below 4 42-48 82 37.8 Above 48 59 27.2 217 100 Total E-commerce type Retail 81 37.3 90 Services 41.5 Others 46 21.2 Total 217 100

TABLE 1: GENERAL DETAILS

TABLE 2: ROLE AND EFFECT OF MOBILE PHONE ON THE GROWTH OF E-COMMERCE

S. No.	Statements	Mean Value	t value	Sig.
1.	Mobile phone enables to explore a vast array of products and services at fingertips	3.20	2.998	0.002
2.	Mobile phone helps to expand the e-customer base	3.14	2.112	0.018
3.	Provide consumers with a broader range of choices and competitive pricing	3.19	2.912	0.002
4.	Convenience of shopping from home, coupled with secure mobile payment options, has boosted e-commerce	3.21	3.153	0.001
5.	Allow residents from even the most remote regions to participate actively in the e-commerce	3.16	2.442	0.008
6.	Mobile phone empowers rural communities for e-commerce	3.18	2.701	0.004
7.	Mobile apps and needs of the local population accelerated the adoption of e-commerce	3.15	2.272	0.012
8.	Consumers feel more connected to the e-commerce ecosystem through mobile phone	3.19	2.891	0.002
9.	Mobile phone bridged the gap between "urban and rural areas" in terms of e-commerce	3.13	1.954	0.026
10.	Mobile phones offer secure payment options, such as mobile wallets and digital payment gateways	3.17	1.835	0.005

Table above is showing different Role and Effect of Mobile Phone on the Growth of E-commerce. The respondent says that convenience of shopping from home, coupled with secure mobile payment options, has boosted e-commerce with mean value 3.21, Mobile phone enables to explore a vast array of products and services at fingertips with mean value 3.20, Provide consumers with a broader range of choices and competitive pricing and Consumers feel more connected to the e-commerce ecosystem through mobile phone with mean value 3.19. The respondent shares that Mobile phone empowers rural communities for e-commerce with mean value 3.18, Mobile phones offer secure payment options, such as mobile wallets and digital payment gateways with mean value 3.17, Allow residents

from even the most remote regions to participate actively in the e-commerce with mean value 3.16 and Mobile apps and needs of the local population accelerated the adoption of e-commerce with mean value 3.15. The respondent also shares that Mobile phone helps to expand the e-customer base with mean value 3.14 and Mobile phone bridged the gap between "urban and rural areas" in terms of e-commerce with mean value 3.13.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the impact of mobile phones on the growth of e-commerce in Himachal Pradesh is profound. This technology has democratized shopping, empowered rural communities, and enhanced the overall shopping experience. With tailored mobile apps and websites, convenient shopping options, and secure payment methods, the state has embraced e-commerce wholeheartedly. As a result, Himachal Pradesh serves as a brilliant illustration of how technology can, regardless of a region's location, revolutionise its economy and enhance the lives of its citizens. As mobile phone usage continues to grow, the journey of e-commerce in Himachal Pradesh is poised to reach even greater heights, bringing prosperity and convenience to all corners of this breathtaking state.

The study was conducted to know the role and the "effect of mobile phone on the growth of e-commerce" in Himachal Pradesh and found that convenience of shopping from home, coupled with secure mobile payment options, has boosted e-commerce, Mobile phone enables to explore a vast array of products and services at fingertips, Provide consumers with a broader range of choices and competitive pricing and Consumers feel more connected to the e-commerce ecosystem through mobile phone and Mobile phones offer secure payment options, such as mobile wallets and digital payment gateways. The study concludes that there is significant effect of mobile phone on the growth of e-commerce in Himachal Pradesh.

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