EVALUATION OF THE SATISFACTION IN TERMS OF PRODUCT QUALITY OF WOMEN'S CASUAL WEAR IN SRI LANKA

K. H. A. George Edward Appuhamy

148325C

Degree of Master of Science

Department of Textile & Clothing Technology

University of Moratuwa,

Sri Lanka

March - 2019

Declaration

Signature of the supervisor:

"I declare that this is my own work and this research does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

Also, I hereby grant to University of Moratuwa the non-exclusive right to reproduce

and distribute my research, in whole or in part in print, electronic or other medium. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

Signature

Date:

The above candidate has carried out research for the master's Dissertation under my supervision.

Name of the supervisor:

Dr. Rivini Matharaarachchi

Date:

Dedication

I lovingly dedicate this thesis

to my mother

and my wife;

for the strength and courage given.

Acknowledgement

I would like to Take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to project supervisor Mrs. Dr. Rivini Matharaarachchi, Senior lecturer, Department of Textile & Clothing Technology, University of Moratuwa, for her invaluable guidance and support given to me. Without her guidance I would not have success in completing this research paper and I would not be meeting my gales.

I would like to recognize Mrs.Sarojanie Kumarasinghe, librarian, Theses reference area, for the support given during my theses writhing dates in library of University of Moratuwa. Her kindness of search books and hospitality was surprises me.

I'm also grateful to my loving parents (specially for my mother) for their prayers and belief in me that I achieve in my dissertation. They were always showering their blessing to me in my education life.

To my wife, for been with me encourage me to complete the projects and the M.Sc. program. Thanking for being taken all caring for my little daughter at the times of absents in the weekends. Your support was highly appreciated for keeping my stress out of house holding responsibilities.

I'm glad that I had Ms. Krishanthi Piyathilaka with me. A true friend who help me with following up people to fill and explain why this questionnaire filling is important to me. Thanks to her for helping me to gets questionnaire organized and offered support to collect answered papers for last 2 months.

Abstract

There has been a significant growth in the apparel retailer market in Sri Lanka during the last decade. Statistic shows middle-class population had grown faster in Sri lanka, and branded and organized retail has improved with changing spending patterns of people. A tremendous retail potential can be identified in city Gampaha, as the second largest household income sector of the country. It had been expected to witness retail development in terms of apparel retailing. The sustainability of this segment of apparel retail depended, on the ability to satisfy target customers satisfaction.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the level of customer satisfaction based on quality of clothing that they were offered by the retailers. Hence the study provides directions to fashion retailers and product developers to understand the key measures of product quality that affect level of customer satisfaction. Further the study helps to understand the level of customer satisfaction.

A survey of 143 customers, who are frequently visiting casual wear retailer shops, were targeted and questioned using the questionnaire form, to get the required details for the research. This data was analyzed by using questionnaire surveys to measure the level of customer satisfaction towards product quality. Researcher has disregarded the customers who do not represent the population & as a result the designated customer group had come down to 100 customers for the data analyzing.

The results of the research emphasized that, customers are satisfied with Performance, Features, Reliability, Conformance, Durability, Serviceability & Perceived quality. But they are negatively satisfied with Aesthetics, Features, & Durability. This research finding, and recommendations are verified & tested in the research paper by using the analytical tables and figures.

Finally, this thesis presents the quality gap of the product offering as a means of listening to the real voice of customer and improve customer satisfaction. Further, this research is an instrument developed, to provide an insight, to which appeal retailers can directly understand, the levels of full-filled expectations of their clientele, with the offering they provided, based on apparel product quality.

Table of contents

| Decla | ration | | i |
|--------|----------|---|----------------|
| Dedic | ation | | ii |
| Ackn | owledge | ement | iii |
| Abstr | act | | iv |
| Table | of conte | ent | v |
| List o | f Figure | es s | vi |
| List o | f Tables | 3 | vii |
| List o | f Appen | ndices | vii |
| CHA | PTER 1: | : INTRODUCTION | |
| 1 | Backg | ground of the study | 01 |
| | 1.1 | Research problem | 01 |
| | 1.2 | Significance of the study | 02 |
| | 1.3 | Aim and objectives of the study | 02 |
| | | 1.3.1 The objectives of the study | 02 |
| CHA | PTER 2: | : LITERATURE REVIEW | |
| 2 | Introd | uction to chapter | 03 |
| | 2.1 | Product Quality | 03 |
| | | 2.1.1 Product Performance | 04 |
| | | 2.1.2 Product Features | 05 |
| | | 2.1.3 Product Reliability | 06 |
| | | 2.1.4 Product Conformance | 07 |
| | | 2.1.5 Product Aesthetics | 08 |
| | | 2.1.6 Product Durability | 09 |
| | | 2.1.7 Product Serviceability | 09 |
| | | 2.1.8 Perceived Quality | 11 |
| | 2.2 | Customer Satisfaction | 12 |
| | 2.3 | Summary of literature sources | 13 |
| CHA | PTER 3: | : METHODOLOGY | |
| 3 | Introd | uction to chapter | 15 |
| | 3.1 | Conceptual Background | 16 |
| | 3.2 | Method of Sampling | 18 |
| | | 3.2.1 Geographical location selection | 18 |
| | | 3.2.2 Identification of market level and respective apparel r | etailers 20 |
| | | 3.2.3 Identification of middle-income market | 20 |
| | | 3.2.4 Identification of middle-income market | 23 |
| | | 3.2.5 Sample Design & selection | 23 |
| | 3.3 | Questionnaire Design and Measurements | 23 |
| | 3.3 | Data Analysis | 25 |

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

| 4 | Introduction to chapter | | 27 | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|----------|--|--|
| | 4.1 Data Analyzing | | | | |
| | | 4.1.1 Percentage of Answer Rate | 27 | | |
| | | 4.1.2 Age Group | 28 | | |
| | | 4.1.3 Income level of the sample | 29 | | |
| | | 4.1.4 Customers Residence area of the sample | 30 | | |
| | | 4.1.5 Number of visiting retail shops of customers | 31 | | |
| | | 4.1.6 Selected Sample size for the analyzing | 32 | | |
| | 4.2 | Product quality satisfaction | 33 | | |
| | | 4.2.1 Level of customer satisfaction for performance | 33 | | |
| | | 4.2.2 Level of customer satisfaction for Aesthetics | 34 | | |
| | | 4.2.3 Level of customer satisfaction for Features | 38 | | |
| | | 4.2.4 Level of customer satisfaction for Durability | 41 | | |
| | | 4.2.5 Level of customer satisfaction for reliability | 44 | | |
| | | 4.2.6 Level of customer satisfaction for serviceability | 44 | | |
| | | 4.2.7 Level of customer satisfaction for conformance | 45 | | |
| | | 4.2.8 Level of customer satisfaction for perceived quality | 45 | | |
| | 4.3 | Summery to product quality satisfaction | 48 | | |
| | 4.4 | Evaluation of customer feedback | 49 | | |
| | 4.5 | Mann-Whitney U Test data analyze | 55 | | |
| | | 4.5.1 Create Test data | 55 | | |
| | | 4.5.2 Mathematical results evaluation | 57 | | |
| | 4.6 | Summary statistics: using parametric tests | 58 | | |
| | | 4.6.1 Descriptive statistics for the intervals | 60 | | |
| СНА | PTER 5 | S: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION | | | |
| | 5.1 | Conclusions | 61 | | |
| | 5.2 | Recommendations | 62 | | |
| | 5.3 | Limitations of methodology | 63 | | |
| | 5.4 | Scope for further research | 63 | | |
| Refer | rences | | 65 | | |
| List (| of Figu | res | | | |
| Figur | e 1 - Co | onceptual framework | 17 | | |
| _ | Figure 2 - Gampaha District population details | | | | |
| _ | | i Lanka Population map | 19 20 | | |
| _ | | verage monthly household income by socio economic groups. | 21 | | |
| Figure 5 – Fashion industry pyramid. | | | | | |
| _ | | etails of the answer rare of the questionnaire. | 22 27 | | |

| Figure 7 -Details of the Age group of customers participated. | 28 |
|---|----------|
| Figure 8 – customers Income level per month (LK RS) | 29 |
| Figure 9 – evaluation of customers Residence area. | 30 |
| Figure 10 – frequency of visiting retails shops of Purchases | 31 |
| Figure 11 – Selected Sample based on predefined exclude and include criteria | 32 |
| Figure 12 - Product quality satisfaction / agreed vs disagreed. | 46 |
| Figure 13 - Product quality satisfaction / agreed vs disagreed levels (%). | 47 |
| Figure 14 - Correlation Between Mean values of the Product quality satisfaction. | 48 |
| Figure 15 - Customers answer rate vs questions | 50 |
| Figure 16 - Histogram diagram | 59 |
| Tigute 10 Tilotogram diagram | |
| | |
| List of Tables | |
| Table 1 - Dimensions of apparel product quality based on literature review | 13 |
| Table 2 – Casual ware price range of the selected retailer shops | 22 |
| Table 3 – Questionnaire formation with key dimension and sub criteria | 24 |
| Table 4 - Table of analyzing tools and measurements | 33 |
| Table 5 - Level of dissatisfied customers for Aesthetics | 36 |
| Table 6 - Level of dissatisfied customers for Features | 39 |
| Table 7 - Level of dissatisfied customers for Durability | 42 |
| Table 8 – Evaluating Product quality satisfaction. | 51 |
| Table 9 – Evaluating mean and S. Deviation Product quality satisfaction. | 53 |
| Table 10 - Sampling distribution in the level of satisfaction | 55 |
| Table 11 - Generated values (N) and ranks | 57 |
| Table 12 - Results evaluation and U value structuring | 58 |
| Table 12A - Data table to calculations | 59 |
| Table 12B - Calculated data of parametric tests | 60 |
| Tuble 125 Calculated data of parametre tests | 00 |
| List of Appendices | |
| Appendix 1: Questionnaire to survey data collection | 70 |
| Appendix 1: Questionnaire to survey data confection Appendix 2: Questionnaire data collection and analyze | 73 |
| Appendix 2: Questionnaire data confection and analyze Appendix 3: details of the participance (responded) of data collection | 74 |
| | 74 78 |
| Appendix 4: Price rangers of the selected retailing shops. | 78 |