Importance of Marketing Mix Elements in Determining Consumer Purchase Decision in the Retail Market

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to identify the linkages between marketing mix elements and the purchase decision process among consumers in the Malaysian retail industry. To fulfill this objective, the present study followed a quantitative survey for gathering the data from the consumers of department stores at the East Coast region in Malaysia. All of the obtained data were inserted and coded using SPSS and then analysed by AMOS 18. The findings indicated that the impact of advertising on the consumers' purchase decision is positive and statistically significant. Besides that, the findings demonstrated that distribution intensity has a negative effect on purchase decision, whereas price plays a key important role in affecting purchase decisions process of the consumers. Lastly, the findings of this paper verified that store image and store location have significant positive linkages with purchase decision. These outcomes enhance our understanding on the role of marketing mix elements in determining a consumer's purchase decision, particularly in the retail context.

KEYWORDS

Consumer Behavior, Marketing Mix, Purchase Decision, Retail Industry

1. INTRODUCTION

Empirical studies on consumer behavior have been increasing over the past few years (Anisimova, 2016; Domina, Lee, & MacGillivray, 2012; Park & Kim, 2003; Wagner, Schramm-Klein, & Steinmann, 2020; Yang, 2007). Consumer behavior emphasizes on how consumers form their purchase decisions as a results of spending their time, money, and effort to obtain certain products or services (Schiffman & Kanuk, 2007). By understanding consumers' behaviors and their purchase decision process, organization tend to have better ideas about how to design effective marketing programs that would appeal to the target market and deliver superior customer value better than competitors. In today's business environment which has highly become competitive and challenging, retailers need to thoroughly identify and forecast how different types of consumers behave in searching for and buying desired products and services to fulfill their needs and wants (Hanaysha, 2018; Kim, Kim, & Lennon, 2018). Consequently, in order to build a competitive advantage in the marketplace, it requires marketers to strategize themselves to create a distinct image in consumers' minds towards their brands which can exert a strong influence on consumer behaviour (Galli, 2018; Oghazi, Karlsson, Hellström, & Hjort, 2018; Shamsher, 2016).

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The process of consumers' decision making represents the phases in which consumers go through for reaching at purchase decisions. Marketers should put emphasis on the whole purchasing process rather than concentrating only on the ultimate purchase decision (Basil, Etuk, & Ebitu, 2013). Consumer buying behavior is multifaceted because there are several elements that correlate with the decision to form a purchase (Peterson & Merino, 2003). Occasionally, consumers spend less time on searching for buying products or services with high or low value, as their needs at certain times tend to be more important. Therefore, marketers should look for innovative strategies, offer superior services, and set marketing plans that can stimulate their consumers to purchase their products and services and increase their satisfaction (Hanaysha & Hilman, 2015; Hynes & Lo, 2006; Ibrahim, Abdallahamed, & Adam, 2018). In past literature, marketing mix was regarded as one of the important aspects that are associated with decision making and assessment. Marketing mix was defined by Kotler and Armstrong (2010) in their book as a series of marketing variables that a company can control and mix them to create a desired response from target audience.

There are several studies on marketing mix elements and purchase behavior in the literature (Govender & Govender, 2016; Jindal et al., 2020; Phadungwatanachok & Fernando, 2019; Sulehri & Ahmad, 2019). Although previous researches emphasized on marketing mix elements and consumer behaviour, there are limited empirical studies which were directed towards examining the role of marketing mix components in determining the purchase decisions of consumers, particularly in Malaysian retail industry. Moreover, a substantial amount of research in the literature has focused on identifying the predictors of a consumer's purchase behavior, but there is no joint agreement among researchers with regards to conditioning factors that matters to purchase decision (Hanaysha, 2018; Mafini & Dhurup, 2014). It can also be noticed in prior literature that most of the studies on marketing mix have mainly focused on the four components (product, price, place, and promotion) and did not integrate other elements. According to Abeck (2017), marketing is comprised of diverse elements that shape the elements of marketing mix, and the success of any organization depends on the effectiveness and implementation of its marketing mix and strategies. Consequently, this research is intended to provide significant practical and theoretical contributions with regards to the empirical linkages between marketing mix elements and consumers' purchase decision. The present research would add to the theoretical marketing literature by examining a unique combination of important marketing mix elements and purchase decision in the retail context. The following paragraphs present the literature review section for this study, methodological approach which was utilized during the phase of data collection, and finally this paper ends by the conclusion and future research recommendations.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Purchase Decision

The concept of purchase decision can be described as the choices which are formed by consumers prior to a purchase which start at the stage of consumers' willingness to fulfill a need (Kotler & Armstrong, 2010). In this case, consumers will look at and study several elements such as: the place to buy, brand name, category or model, size of purchase, time of making the purchase, expected expenditures to obtain the product, and payment method. The task of marketers is to influence all of such decisions by providing necessary information which can affect the process of consumer's evaluation (Choi, Lee, & Alcorn, 2020; Kiran, Majumdar, & Kishore, 2012). However, before searching for an external source of information about a certain consumption associated need, consumers generally try to recall related information in their memories. For instance, previous purchase experience can be considered as a significant source for information search which would help them to take wise decisions. However, for some consumers, purchase decisions tend to be formed based on combining their prior purchase experiences, non-commercial information with a brand's advertisements (Schiffman & Kanuk, 2007).

Moreover, Chaipradermsak (2007) declared that consumers normally try to avoid any potential risk in their buying decisions process. Therefore, they search for more information before make purchases.

According to Pride and Ferrell (2011), in order to comprehend the purchasing decision of consumers, marketers must study first about the process of consumption and the benefits of products that are perceived by consumers. They also stated that consumers go through a number of phases in forming purchase decisions and post-purchase behaviour. Initially, consumers' purchase decision starts with problem recognition in which they experience tension as their needs are not fulfilled. The role of marketers typically appears in using the advertisements to stimulate the recognition of unfulfilled needs. In the next phase, consumers start searching for information about the products or services, which either exist in their memories that are stored based on past experience or from external sources, such as friends, family, published reports, government magazines, sales force, internet, packages and labels, displays, or based on frequent repetitions. The third phase focuses on the assessment of several alternatives based on important criteria that can aid in the purchase decision. The criteria depend on the conditions of consumers such as: time and location. Additionally, there are situational factors that could have impact on the purchase decision, such as physical environment which includes location, ambience and weather.

2.2 Marketing Mix Elements

The concept of marketing mix was historically defined by Kotler and Armstrong (2010) as a pool of marketing tools that can be controlled and blended by a company in order to create desired responses in certain target markets. In other words, marketing mix comprises everything that a marketer can do to increase the demand of its product from a particular audience. Similarly, Chaipradermsak (2007) expressed marketing mix as the group of tactics that can be used to achieve marketing objectives. Previous literature indicated that the most commonly used elements of marketing mix include: price, product, promotion, and place (Kotler & Armstrong, 2010). Certain researchers suggested that marketing mix elements comprises any activity that an organization undertakes to increase the demand for its products/ service and generate profit, such as advertising, distribution intensity, and physical evidence (Yoo, Donthu, & Lee, 2000). However, this study focuses on five elements to operationalize and test marketing mix elements in the retail industry settings, and this includes advertising, distribution intensity, price, location, and store image. The service industry including retail market has recently experienced rapid growth and is considered to be an important driver of the economic development for any country (Gera, Mittal, Batra, & Prasad, 2017; Ishola & Olusoji, 2020).

Advertising was described in the marketing literature as the campaigns which are designed by a particular sponsor in order to stimulate potential buyers to purchase its offerings by communicating their valuable benefits and abilities of fulfilling a desired need (Bues, Steiner, Stafflage, & Krafft, 2017). The main purpose of advertising messages is primarily centred on motivating customers to act favourably when they intend to buy the products or service offerings of a particular brand (Hilman & Hanaysha, 2015; Ruswanti et al., 2019). The strengths of advertising programs depend heavily on the skills and abilities of the sponsoring organization in determining its market target clearly and serving them better than competitors. Hanaysha (2017) pointed out that the ability of the marketing personnel to increase their brand awareness and convince or persuade their customers to make purchase decisions depends on a number of factors. These factors include convenience or accessibility, price affordability, and the appeal of advertising campaigns. Organizations invest in extensive research on identification of their target market characteristics, in order to effectively design proper advertising messages and then market their products or services using various media channels to attract potential customers and maintain them. Past research reported that distribution channels and advertising programs represent important marketing strategies that should be considered for affecting consumers' choices (Basil et al., 2013) and purchase decisions (Salem, Baidoun, Walsh, & Sweidan, 2019; Chaipradermsak, 2007).

Another key component of the marketing mix includes distribution intensity, which has received noteworthy attention in prior studies. Distribution intensity can be defined as the way in which the

offerings of a brand can be accessed or obtained by the targeted group of customers, such as through the increased number of outlets under the same brand name (Frazier & Lassar, 1996). Frazier and Lassar (1996) also defined distribution intensity in their study as the number of marketing intermediaries selected by a company to promote and sell its product or service offerings within defined geographical areas. In the consumer markets, prior researches confirmed that the efficiency of marketing channels has a vital role in contributing towards improving customer retention (Li & Green, 2011). Moreover, the intensity of distribution and ease of accessibility exert a positive and high effect on the loyalty of customers to a brand, because it proliferates the likelihood of buying its products at a lower cost. Salgado-Beltrán, Espejel-Blanco, and Beltrán-Morales (2013) confirmed that distribution intensity has significant effect on purchase decision. Moreover, distribution intensity was illustrated in the prior research as a powerful marketing approach for shaping consumer behaviour as the convenience of availability increases the possibility of purchasing a company's products/ services at any time a consumer wants (Bucklin, Siddarth, & Silva-Risso, 2008; Hibbard, Kacker, & Sadeh, 2019; Pourdehghan, 2015; Salem et al., 2019).

Price has also been regarded as a core component of marketing mix which determines the purchase behaviour of consumers. Price was described by Armstrong and Kotler (2007) as the total sum of costs that a consumer has to spend if he or she intends to acquire a product or service. It has largely been stressed by successful organizations in their marketing strategies for capturing the attention of different types of customers. Salgado-Beltrán et al. (2013) viewed price as the financial value of a market offering that is available for exchange by the consumers. Martin-Consuegra, Molina, and Esteban (2007) outlined that price-conscious customers exhibit the behaviour of unwillingness to purchase certain products and services of a particular brand if they are offered at high or unfair prices. The authors elaborated that consumers tend to negatively evaluate such bands which do not take their interests and purchasing power into account and avoid them when they look for certain offerings to satisfy their needs. Additionally, Peter and Donnelly (2007) stated that price represents the basic criteria for consumers' overall evaluations of brands. These claims match with the findings of Mahmood and Khan (2014) who verified that the repurchase decisions of consumers from a certain service provider is highly determined by their previous buying experiences with regards to perceived value. Likewise, Astuti et al. (2015) found that price has a significant positive association with a consumers' purchase decision. A number of studies (Akbar, Sularso, & Indraningrat, 2020; Amelia et al., 2015; Devi & Harjatno, 2019; Hermiyenti & Wardi, 2019; Hustić & Gregurec, 2015; Yusran & Usman, 2019) also reported that price has positive and significant impact on the purchase behaviour of different types of customers.

Furthermore, store image is an important element which has received noteworthy attention in the prior researches which focused on retail context. It was defined by Kotler and Armstrong (2010) as the overall attitude of consumers about a retailer. Hartman and Spiro (2005) illustrated that store image can be determined based on the overall impression perceived by a customer about a retail brand, and this perception is likely to be created through various factors, such as the quality of a product and service offerings, product assortment, atmospheric environment, and hedonic as well as utilitarian values. In general, it can be stated that store image is shaped based on the popularity of a department store that is established in the minds of consumers as a result of purchase experiences and word of mouth recommendations. The reputation usually arises also through the ability of the service provider in constructing an integrated marketing program which delivers superior customer value over competitors. Wu, Yeh, and Hsiao (2011) added that store image can be determined based on consumers' overall attitudes towards a store through its intrinsic and extrinsic attributes.

In evaluating a store, consumers usually compare its physical environment, location, availability of products, the ability of its staff to provide information about existing products, and the way they treat them when they visit the store (Solomon et al. 2002). Past research showed that store image acts as a key determinant of consumer's purchase decision (Konuk, 2018; Kurnianto et al., 2019; Sari, Anas, & Larasintia, 2019; Shabana & Radha, 2019; Tirawatnapong & Fernando, 2019). For instance,

de Morais Watanabe et al. (2019); and Zamrudi et al. (2019) indicated that brand image proliferates consumers' confidence and trust in its ability to satisfy their needs and meet their expectations, which ultimately influences their purchase intention. Moreover, McNeil (2019) demonstrated that consumers evaluate a store's image based on its physical environment, store location, product assortments, service quality, and prices. They added that when a store is positively evaluated on these dimensions, it will enhance consumers' perceived value, and thus purchase decision.

The fifth element of marketing mix is place/ location. This concept has largely been discussed in marketing literature and highlights the importance of placing the products of a particular brand in the right quantity at various locations which are easy for consumers to access and obtain with less efforts (Satit et al., 2012). In other words, location is the place in which a company decides to promote its products and service in order to ease their purchase from consumers at minimal costs (Amofah, Gyamfi, & Tutu, 2016). However, the characteristics of retail industry indicate that a store's location represents the main factor for business success and consumer purchase behavior (Behera & Mishra, 2017). Furthermore, an appropriate selection of channel strategy urges brands to obtain comprehensive information about their potential target markets in order to ensure greater success (Hawkins, Best, & Coney, 2001). The accessibility of the stores where the products or services of a brand exist represents a fundamental aspect that should be considered for stimulating consumer purchase behaviour and influencing overall brand evaluation (Devi & Harjatno, 2019; Rachmawati, Shukri, Azam, & Khatibi, 2019). Therefore, the convenience of retail location should be carefully considered when designing the marketing program. According to a number of scholars (Brata wt al., 2017; Darmasaputra & Djatmiko, 2015; Enneking, Neumann, & Henneberg, 2007; Faryabi, Sadeghzadeh, & Saed, 2012; Salazar, 2017), place has a positive effect on consumers' purchase decisions. Hence, based on the literature review presented above, the hypotheses for this study are postulated as follows:

H1: Advertising has a positive effect on purchase decision.

H2: Distribution intensity has a positive effect on purchase decision.

H3: Price has a positive effect on purchase decision.

H4: Store image has a positive effect on purchase decision.

H5: Store location has a positive effect on purchase decision.

3. METHODOLOGY

As mentioned above, this study was generally planned to examine whether marketing mix elements exert any significant effect on consumer's purchase decision in Malaysian retail industry. To fulfil the stated objective, the quantitative research methodology was employed. Mainly, a total of 384 questionnaires were administered to customer of department stores in East Coast Malaysia after screening their eligibility to participate in answering the survey. As the size of population in this area of Malaysia accounts for more than one million, the total sample employed to conduct this research is considered acceptable (Sekaran, 2003). Moreover, the survey method was used by a number of researchers for obtaining the desired data from consumers. Consequently, the utilization of survey tool for collecting consumer data is considered to be adequate for this study. During the data collection process, the convenience sampling approach was adopted due to its advantages which appear in enabling the researcher to easily reach the respondents at lower cost and shorter time frame in comparison to other sampling methods. Convenience sampling was also employed by several studies for collecting consumer data (Belwal & Belwal, 2017; Bouzaabia, Bouzaabia, & Capatina, 2013; Clemes, Gan, & Zhang, 2010; Dadzie & Nandonde, 2019).

Before beginning the process of data collection, a structured questionnaire was designed after referring to past researches and adapting the measurement scales of variables. In particular, a total of five items were adapted from the research of Shareef et al. (2008) to measure purchase decision. Likewise, marketing mix was measured using the five dimensions which were presented above in the

literature review section; advertising, price, distribution intensity, store location, and store image. To measure advertising effectiveness, four items were adapted from the scale which was developed by Yoo, Donthu, and Lee (2000). Moreover, the measurement scale for distribution intensity is comprised of three items being developed with reference to previous research and literature. However, price perception from consumer's perspective was measured using four items being taken from Ling (2007). Additionally, a total of four items for measuring store image were adapted from Yoo et al. (2000). Finally, the measurement scale of store location was adapted from Ling (2007). The adapted items were measured using a five-point Likert scale that ranges from (1) strongly disagree to (5) strongly agree.

4. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The results indicated that the total responses which were obtained from the participants is equal to 278. As shown in Table 1, the demographic analysis of data reveal that 45.3 percent of the respondents are represented by males, whereas females accounted for 54.7 percent. Moreover, the majority of respondents (49.6 percent) are aged between 26 and 30 years, while the lowest percentage of individuals who participated in this research is represented by those who are aged 41 years or above. The descriptive data also showed that most of the respondents (34.5 percent) had Bachelor degree certificate, 29.2 percent had High School Certificate, 19.4 percent had Diploma certificate, whereas the lowest percentage (16.9%) came from Postgraduate Degree holders. In the monthly income profile, it was found that 48 respondents earned below RM 500 (17.2 percent), whereas 15 participants representing 5.4 percent were classified in the category that fall in the range of RM 501 - RM 1000. But, those whose monthly income came in the range of RM 1000 to RM 4000 accounted for only 144 respondents (52 percent), and finally, a total of 71 respondents earned more than RM 4000 for their monthly income.

Moreover, the reliability of constructs was confirmed based on the calculations of Cronbach's alpha using SPSS. The findings indicated that all constructs met the assumptions of reliability as the values of Cronbach's alpha for all of the selected constructs ranged from 0.713 and 0.878. In detail, purchase decision attained a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.769, and advertising was reported at Cronbach's alpha value of 0.800. Likewise, the Cronbach's alpha value for distribution intensity was recorded at 0.752. The reliability analysis also showed that price attained an alpha value of 0.878. Finally, the alpha value of store image is registered at 0.721, whereas store location achieved a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.713. These statistical values achieved a proper fit for the data because they exceeded the minimum acceptable value of 0.60 as reported by Taber (2017). Therefore, it can be said that the reliability assumptions for the measurement scale are fulfilled. The analysis also showed that the correlations between any pair of the constructs are free of multicollinearity as the values did not exceed 0.80 (see Table 2). These analyses provide an indication of existing discriminant validity.

After analysing the reliability of measurement items by SPSS, AMOS software was used for estimating the measurement and structural models. In the first stage, the measurement model which comprises all of the measurement items was constructed to test CFA and achieve adequate fit for the data. After that, the structural model was estimated based on several fit values. Generally, the outcomes as shown in Figure 1 revealed that the structural model achieved a chi-square value of 227.775, and this shows that the current structural model has an adequate power. Moreover, GFI was reported at 0.872 which is more than the lower acceptable value of 0.80. The model also achieved acceptable AGFI as the value was 0.822. Moreover, RMSEA achieved a tolerable value of 0.064 that is lower than 0.08. Finally, the comparative fit index (CFI) was registered at 0.914 which exceeded the minimum recommended value of 0.9. Therefore, the fit values for the final structural model are acceptable.

After achieving an acceptable good model fit for the data, the hypotheses of this research were verified through the structural model on AMOS 18. The results presented below in Table 3 confirmed that advertising effectiveness has a significant positive impact on purchase decision (β = 0.413, C.R. = 4.458, P < 0.05), therefore, H1 is supported. Contrary to the expectations, the statistical results

Table 1. Respondents' Profile

	Category	Frequency	Percent	
Caradan	Male	126	45.3	
Gender	Female	152	54.7	
	18 - 25 years	62	22.4	
A	26 - 30 years	138	49.6	
Age	31 - 40 years	64	23.1	
	41 years or above	14	4.9	
	High School Certificate	81	29.2	
O1:6:4:	Diploma	54	19.4	
Qualification	Bachelor	96	34.5	
	Postgraduate	47	16.9	
	Less than RM500	48	17.2	
Monthly Income	RM501 to RM1000	15	5.4	
	RM1001 to RM4000	144	52	
	Greater than RM4000	71	25.4	

showed that distribution intensity has a negative association with purchase decision (β = -0.526, C.R. = -3.073, P < 0.05), and this means that H2 is rejected. The results of this study also verified that price has significant positive effect on purchase decision (β = 0.490, C.R. = 4.908, P < 0.05), thus, H3 is accepted. Additionally, the data analysis pointed out that store image (β = 0.322, C.R. = 2.7678, P < 0.05) and store location (β = 0.287, C.R. = 2.068, P < 0.05) have positive effects on consumer's purchase decision; Hence, H4 and H5 are accepted. Generally, these factors collectively explain about 72.3% of the total variance in the purchase decision of consumers.

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This research was conducted for the purpose of testing the effect of selected marketing mix components on consumers' buying decision process in Malaysian retail industry. The results showed that advertising intensity has a positive effect on the purchase decision of consumers, and this matches with previous studies (Macdonald & Sharp, 2000; Nour, & Almahirah, 2014; Warraich & Ali, 2020). Sorina-Raula

Table 2. Pearson Correlations

	Advertising	Price	Distribution Intensity	Store Image	Store Location	Purchase Decision
Advertising	1					
Price	0.271	1				
Distribution Intensity	0.292	0.351	1			
Store Image	0.201	0.184	0.454	1		
Store Location	0.263	0.353	0.499	0.428	1	
Purchase Decision	0.176	0.340	0.103	0.222	0.279	1



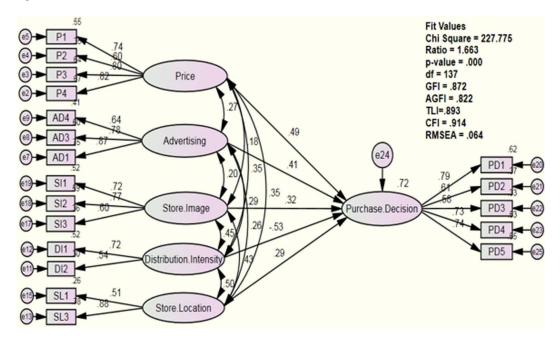


Table 3. Results of Hypotheses

	Нур	othes	es	Std. Beta	S.E.	C.R. (t-value)	P-value
H1:	Advertising	\rightarrow	Purchase Decision	0.413	0.060	4.458	0.038
H2:	Distribution Intensity	\rightarrow	Purchase Decision	-0.526	0.142	-3.073	0.002
Н3:	Price	\rightarrow	Purchase Decision	0.490	0.073	4.908	***
H4:	Store Image	\rightarrow	Purchase Decision	0.322	0.109	2.767	0.006
H5:	Store Location	\rightarrow	Purchase Decision	0.287	0.108	2.068	0.039

et al. (2008) indicated that an advertisement which is exposed by a potential customer while he/ she is searching for information about a product category will have a strong impact on purchase decision. However, marketers must decrease consumer's uncertainty about the distinct features of their brands through designing effective advertisements which contain valuable information and meet target market expectations. This is because consumers tend to form purchase decisions based on what is advertised after making comparisons and evaluations between different brands. Macdonald and Sharp (2000) illustrated that the frequency of advertisements can preserve the brand in the consideration set of consumers and influence their purchase decisions. The authors added that brand awareness can be formed as a result of advertising and this has a strong effect on brand choice and purchase decision. Therefore, it can be concluded that the effectiveness of advertising techniques influences consumer's purchase decision (Shieh, Xu, & Ling, 2019). This influence can be maximized through utilizing social media and interactive technologies to reach consumers and communicate brand offerings.

The second research objective in this paper was to test the impact of distribution intensity on purchase decision. The findings indicated that, in line with the historical literature, distribution intensity has a negative effect on purchase decision. Greater support was observed in the study of Diab and Mansour (2015) who found that distribution intensity had a negative relationship with perceived quality and brand loyalty, which may hinder consumer's willingness to purchase. Moreover, Liua, Huang, and Lin. (2009) reported that the relationship between distribution intensity and the consumer's purchase intention is negative when the level of brand awareness is high but the brand's offerings are not unique and the consumers' perceived value does not exist. This negative effect could be attributed to the need among consumer for uniqueness in brand offerings (Simonson & Nowlis, 2000) rather than offering a product or service that does not meet customer's expectations. Consequently, the marketing decision with regards to increasing or decreasing distribution intensity should mainly be based on brand positioning and brand image creation. At the same time, choosing the right distribution channels to offer the product should be the key priority. With the rise of technology, companies can improve their sales through e-commerce service to enhance brand position and reach customers easily (Lamaakchaoui, Azmani, & El Jarroudi, 2018).

The findings also confirmed that price represents an important factor which significantly influenced purchase decision. The finding matches the previous researches of a number of scholars (Abdullah, 2020; Amelia et al., 2015; Hustić & Gregurec, 2015; Nguyen, Phan, Vu, 2015) who outlined that price is considered as the most critical factor for evaluating purchase behaviour and justifies whether customers maintain or stop their relationships with a brand according to their perceptions of product and service quality in addition to the amount of money that they spend to obtain a certain product. Thus, marketing managers should understand customers' perceptions towards their products and services and set the prices according to their perceived value and buying power. Additionally, the results of this paper confirmed that store image has significant and positive effect on purchase decision. The result was supported by a number of researchers (Faryabi et al., 2012; Wu et al., 2011; Bao, Bao, & Sheng, 2011) who stated that store image plays a significant role in determining purchase decision. The finding suggests that the management in retail industry should continuously promote their brands and inform consumers about the benefits of selecting them over competitors using different media. The image of a store can be developed positively in consumers' mind through providing them with several advantages that enhance their shopping experience, such as product assortment, delivery, price fairness, and other marketing mix elements.

Finally, the results pointed out that store location has significant positive impact on purchase decision, and this matches the findings of past studies (Chaipradermsak, 2007; Charles & Kerry, 2005; Jaravaza & Chitando, 2013). According to Hawkins et al. (2001) a good channel decision should be centred towards understanding the preferences of target customers regarding the place of shopping for product. Therefore, the marketing managers should carefully locate their stores and probably conduct market research before making a wrong decision. The location of a store determines partial amount of the cost for getting a product and also the motivation of a customer to select a retailer over another. For instance, choosing a location is accessible and easy to reach among customers without incurring high cost can influence their choices and willingness to visit the store or retailer for shopping. Besides, providing free parking and enough spaces while shopping could shaper customers' experience and influence their shopping behaviour.

This research has few limitations in this paper which can be taken into consideration in future researches. First, only five elements of marketing mix were tested in this research; hence, future research may look at examining other important marketing factors, such as service innovation and customer relationship management. Second, the sample size which was employed to conduct this study may not be large enough to generalize the results. Therefore, it is suggested for future researches to enlarge the scope of respondents and rely on bigger sample sizes in order to verify the empirical linkages between marketing mix elements and purchase decision. Third, the present study was conducted in retail sector using convenience sampling method, hence, future studies may examine the

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variables using random sampling techniques in different industry contexts. Moreover, a survey tool which comprised structured questions for collecting consumer data was employed. For this reason, it is suggested for future research to use longitudinal data to confirm the results. Finally, only consumers were involved in this study to test the relationships between the selected variables; therefore, future studies should be directed towards testing employee perceptions in order to gain better insights about the role of marketing mix components in affecting purchase decision.

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APPENDIX

Table 4. Factor loadings of remaining items

Code	Construct/ Item	Factor Loadings
	Purchase Decision	
PD1	I feel good about my decision to purchase products from this store's brand.	0.787
PD2	I will positively recommend this store's brand to other people.	0.608
PD3	I frequently purchase from this store's brand.	0.577
PD4	I intent to purchase again from this store's brand in the future.	0.725
PD5	Overall, I am satisfied about my purchase of goods from this store.	0.740
	Advertising	
AD1	This store is intensively advertised.	0.866
AD3	The advertising campaigns for this retail store are frequently seen.	0.775
AD4	The advertising campaigns for this retail store are attractive	0.643
	Distribution Intensity	
DI1	This store is widely distributed as compared to its competing brands	0.719
DI3	I face less difficulty in getting to this store as compared to others.	0.544
	Price	
P1	This store offers the lowest prices in the area.	0.742
P2	This store maintains the best prices for most products	0.595
Р3	The prices of products in this store are reasonable	0.803
P4	This store consistently provides the best values for money	0.820
	Store Image	
SI1	This store carries products of high quality.	0.724
SI2	This store provided me a better lifestyle.	0.769
SI3	This store has well-known brands.	0.600
SI4	This store offers variety of products and services to its customers.	
	Store Location	
SL1	This store provides convenient parking of vehicles to its customers.	0.514
SL3	It is easy to get into this store and checkout from the area after shopping.	0.884

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