

FACTORS AFFECTING ONLINE CONSUMERS PURCHASING BEHAVIOR IN HANGZHOU CITY, CHINA

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ABSTRACT

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This study was done to determine online consumer purchasing behavior and the factors affecting purchasing behavior in Hangzhou City, China. This study was specifically aimed to describe the socioedemographic profiles of online consumers; determine the online purchasing behavior of online consumers in terms of frequency and amount; determine the sociodemographic characteristics that influence online purchasing behavior; determine the consumers' perceptions of risks and benefits of online purchasing; and ascertain if the perceived risk and perceived benefit factors affect online purchasing behavior of consumers.

This paper developed a research model showing the customers' perceived risk and benefit factors as well as demographic factors affecting the online consumers' purchasing behavior. The model was tested using an online survey of some 395 Taobao's customers who registered in Hangzhou City, China.

Only monthly income was found to be significantly affected online purchase behavior in terms of frequency. In terms of amount of purchase, four sociodemographic characteristics were found to be significant: age, income,



education, and internet experience and all were positively related to purchase behavior.

The perceived benefits towards online purchasing such as convenience, low price, and variety of merchandize affected positively (directionally) the online purchasing behavior in terms of amount spent. However, all the benefits factors were not statistically significant. On the other hand, on the perceived risks towards online purchasing, the financial, privacy, and technology factors negatively affected frequency of purchase while product and security factors did not. However, the financial factor was only statistically significant. In terms of amount of purchase, likewise the financial factor significantly affected amount of purchase. Product and security factors were directionally correct, but not statistically significant.

The results of the study suggest that publishers and manufacturers should maximize efforts in using the online shopping platform. The government of China should provide the appropriate environment to increase consumer confidence on patronizing online stores. Advertising or sales promotions should be focused on specific age groups, income groups, levels of education as well as years of internet using as these factors are found to be significantly associated with online purchase. Online stores should be more flexible in encountering financial issues with customers. It is also recommended that this research be replicated to Taobao customers in other locations of China.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	i
DEED OF DECLARATION	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	iii
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	vi
ABSTRACT	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	x
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES.	xiv
LIST OF APPENDIXES.	xv
INTRODUCTION	1
Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Problem.	7
Objectives of the Study	8
Hypothesis of the Study	8



Significance of the Study	11
Scope and Limitations of the Study	12
Definition of Terms	13
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	15
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	29
METHODOLOGY.	35
Research Design	35
Time and Place of the Study.	36
Sources of Data.	36
Collection of Data.	36
Methods of Analysis	38
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	62
SummarySince 1977	62
Conclusions.	65
Recommendations	66
REFERENCES	
APPENDIXES	73



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Respondents by age, Hangzhou City, 2008	43
2	Profile of respondents by educational attainment, Hangzhou City, 2008	44
3	Respondents by gender, Hangzhou City, 2008	44
. 4	Respondents by monthly income, Hangzhou City, 2008	45
5	Respondents by occupation, Hangzhou City, 2008	46
6	Respondents by year when first used Internet, Hangzhou City, 2008.	47
7	Respondents by year when first purchased online, Hangzhou, City, 2008	48
8	Respondents according to where first purchased online, Hangzhou City, 2008.	49
9	Respondents online purchasing behavior in terms of frequency, Hangzhou City, 2008	50
10	Respondents online purchasing behavior in terms of amount, Hangzhou City, 2008	51
11	Respondents online purchasing behavior in terms of frequency of items bought, Hangzhou City, 2008	52
12	Correlation between sociodemographic and purchasing behavior, Hangzhou City, 2008	53



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
13	Mean of perceived risks of online purchasing, Hangzhou City, 2008	55
14	Mean of perceived benefits of online purchasing, Hangzhou City, 2008	57
15	Regression analysis between frequency of purchase and perceived risks and perceived benefits, Hang City, 2008.	59
16	Regression analysis between amount of purchase and perceived risks and perceived benefits, Hangzhou City, 2008	60



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	A model showing the association between perceived risk, internet shopping experience and consumer characteristics and online purchasing behavior	29
2	Technology Readiness Model	30
3	Conceptual Framework of the study	33





LIST OF APPENDIXES

Appendix		Page
A	Questionnaire in English	74
В	Questionnaire in Chinese	79
C	Crosstabulation results	83

