

Environmental Concern, Attitude and Responsibility and Green Purchasing Behaviour of Consumers in Madurai District

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Abstract— Large number of problems related to environment experienced by consumers is the main reason for them to move from conventional or non green purchasing to green purchasing and green products reduce harmful impacts on environment and society. Significant difference prevails amongst environmental concern, environmental attitude and environmental responsibility and socio-economic profile of consumers. Environmental concern, environmental attitude and environmental responsibility have positive, moderate and significant relation with green purchasing behaviour of consumers. Therefore, consumers must live harmoniously with natural environment and they should not make any attempts to modify character of environment and consumers must enthusiastically involve in conservation of environment. Further, Government and environmental organizations and non government organizations should make consumers to realize their responsibilities and necessity for protection of environment through various awareness programmes and campaigns and incentives.

Keywords— Attitude, Concern, Environment, Green Purchasing Behaviour, Responsibility

I. INTRODUCTION

Currently, all the nations across the globe are worrying about environmental problems namely global warming, environmental pollution and degradation, climate change and depletion of environmental resources (Atthirawong and Panprung, 2017). Nowadays, consumers are also having higher degree of apprehension on changes in environment in comparison with past years and their purchasing behaviour are also remarkably changed (Papadopoulos et al 2010). Consumers are giving importance to environmental problems in purchasing and consuming various products (Hessami and Yousefi, 2013). Purchasing and consumption behaviour of consumers have significant impact on environment (Wahid et al 2011) and of the gravity of environmental problems, thus, consumers are more environmentally conscious (Han et al 2009).

Large number of problems related to environment experienced by consumers is the main reason for them to move from conventional or non green purchasing to green purchasing (Dagher and Itani, 2012) and green products

reduce harmful impacts on environment and society (Cornelissen et al 2008). Presently, substantial quantum of consumers purchase green products which create very less damage to environment, consuming low level of energy and friendly with environment. Thus, it is important to study environmental concern, attitude and responsibility and green purchasing behaviour of consumers in Madurai district.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rahbar and Wahid (2011) found that knowledge, concern and attitude on environment and advertisements had significant effect on purchasing of green products amongst consumers. Aman et al (2012) concluded that environmental concern and knowledge were influencing green purchasing intention of consumers which was mediated by attitude of consumers on environment.

Molina et al (2013) revealed that environmental knowledge, environmental attitude and environmental consciousness were directly related to purchasing behaviour of students. Lee et al (2014) indicated that knowledge, attitude and concern on environment had positive and significant influence on green purchasing amongst consumers.

Dagher et al (2015) showed that concern and attitude on environment had positive and significant impact on green purchasing behaviour of consumers. Jamal et al (2016) found that attitude and awareness about environment, knowledge and peer groups were influencing green purchasing behaviour amongst consumers.

Maichum et al (2017) concluded that environmental concern and attitude were significantly and positively influencing green purchasing intention of young consumers. Kusuma and Handayani (2018) revealed that knowledge on environment, attitude on environment and green advertisements had positive and significant impact on green purchase intention of consumers. Ting et al (2019) found that attitude on environment, behavioural control, expected emotions were positively and significantly related with green purchasing behaviour of consumers.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- A. To examine environmental concern, attitude and responsibility of consumers.
- B. To scrutinize difference amongst environmental concern, attitude and responsibility and socio-economic profile of consumers.

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C. To study relation amongst environmental concern, attitude and responsibility and green purchasing behaviour of consumers.

IV. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

A. There is no significant difference in environmental concern, attitude and responsibility amongst socio-economic profile of consumers.

B. There is no significant relation amongst environmental concern, attitude and responsibility and green purchasing behaviour of consumers.

V. METHODOLOGY

The present study is carried out in Madurai district. Consumers of green purchasing are chosen by using simple random sampling method and questionnaire method is used to gather data from 300 consumers of green purchasing. Percentages are computed to understand socio-economic profile of consumers and mean and standard deviation are worked out to know agreement level of consumers for environmental concern, attitude and responsibility. t-test and F-test are used to scrutinize difference amongst socio-economic profile of consumers and environmental concern, attitude and responsibility. Correlation analysis is used to study relation amongst environmental concern, attitude and responsibility and green purchasing behaviour of consumers.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF CONSUMERS

The socio-economic profile of consumers is given in Table-1. The findings disclose that 59.67 per cent of them are males, whereas, 40.33 per cent of them are females and 33.00 per cent of them fall under age category of 36 – 45 years, whereas, 5.67 per cent of them fall under age category of below 25 years. The findings elucidate that 32.00 per cent of them possess under graduation, whereas, 10.00 per cent of them possess secondary education and 27.33 per cent of them earn monthly income of Rs.25,001 – Rs.35,000, whereas 22.67 per cent of them earn monthly income of More than Rs.45,000. The findings clarify that and 70.00 per cent of them are married, whereas, 30.00 per cent of them are unmarried and 79.67 per cent of them have nuclear family, whereas, 20.33 per cent of them have joint family.

Table-1. Socio-Economic Profile of Consumers

Socio-Economic Profile	Number of Consumers	Percentage
Gender		
Male	179	59.67
Female	121	40.33
Age Category		
Below 25 Years	17	5.67
26– 35 Years	77	25.66
36 – 45 Years	99	33.00
46 – 55 Years	60	20.00
Above 55 Years	47	15.67
Education		
Secondary	30	10.00

Higher Secondary	51	17.00
Diploma	58	19.33
Under Graduation	96	32.00
Post Graduation	65	21.67
Monthly Income		
Less than Rs.25,000	73	24.33
Rs.25,001 – Rs.35,000	82	27.33
Rs.35,001 – Rs.45,000	77	25.67
More than Rs.45,000	68	22.67
Marital Status		
Married	210	70.00
Unmarried	90	30.00
Type of Family		
Joint	61	20.33
Nuclear	239	79.67

B. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

The insight of consumers on environmental concern is given in Table-2.

Table-2. Environmental Concern

Environmental Concern	Mean	Standard Deviation
I am living harmoniously with natural environment	3.29	1.28
I am worrying about pollution of environment	3.83	1.11
I am having right to modify character of environment	3.38	1.24
I am concerning on degradation of environment	3.77	1.21
I am enthusiastically involving in conservation of environment	3.35	1.37

The consumers are agreed with they are worrying about pollution of environment and they are concerning on degradation of environment, whereas, they are neutral with they are living harmoniously with natural environment, they are having right to modify character of environment and they are enthusiastically involving in conservation of environment.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF CONSUMERS

To scrutinize difference amongst environmental concern and socio-economic profile of consumers, t-test and ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) test are used and the results are given in Table-3.

Table-3. Difference amongst Environmental Concern and Socio-Economic Profile of Consumers

Particulars	t-Value / F-Value	Sig.
Gender and Environmental Concern	5.461** (t-value)	.000
Age Category and Environmental Concern	9.513** (F-Value)	.000
Education and Environmental Concern	5.648** (F-Value)	.000
Monthly Income and Environmental Concern	6.600** (F-Value)	.000
Marital Status and Environmental Concern	5.506** (t-value)	.000
Type of Family and Environmental Concern	5.540** (t-value)	.000

** Significant at 1 % level

The t-values and F-values demonstrate that significant difference exist in environmental concern amongst socio-economic profile of consumers. Consequently, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDE

The insight of consumers on environmental attitude is given in Table-4.

Table-4. Environmental Attitude

Environmental Attitude	Mean	Standard Deviation
Protection of environment is necessary	3.92	1.05
Effective measures are needed to protect environment	3.88	1.03
It is essential to promote eco-friendly living	3.85	1.04
Environmental protection is not my responsibility	3.25	1.09
Environmental protection of is valueless	3.33	1.06

The consumers are agreed with protection of environment is necessary, effective measures are needed to protect environment and it is essential to promote eco-friendly living, whereas, they are neutral with environmental protection is not their responsibilities and environmental protection of is valueless.

E. Environmental Attitude And Socio-Economic Profile Of Consumers

To inspect difference amongst environmental attitude and socio-economic profile of consumers, t-test and ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) test are done and the results are given in Table-5.

Table-5. Difference amongst Environmental Attitude and Socio-Economic Profile of Consumers

Particulars	t-Value / F-Value	Sig.
Gender and Environmental Attitude	4.867** (t-value)	.000
Age Category and Environmental Attitude	7.669** (F-Value)	.000
Education and Environmental Attitude	6.771** (F-Value)	.000
Monthly Income and Environmental Attitude	6.875** (F-Value)	.000
Marital Status and Environmental Attitude	4.768** (t-value)	.000

Type of Family and Environmental Attitude	4.564** (t-value)	.000
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** Significant at 1 % level

The t-values and F-values exhibit that significant difference exist in environmental attitude amongst socio-economic profile of consumers. Consequently, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The insight of consumers on environmental responsibility is given in Table-6.

Table-6. Environmental Responsibility

Environmental Responsibility	Mean	Standard Deviation
I have high responsibility to protect environment	3.31	1.09
Environment protection starts from me	3.90	1.06
I am very eager to involve in activities to protect environment	3.94	1.01
I bear responsibility for protecting environment since my childhood	3.37	1.03
It is the responsibility of government to protect environment	3.28	1.02

The consumers are agreed with environment protection starts from them and they are very eager to involve in activities to protect environment, whereas, they are neutral with they have high responsibility to protect environment, they bear responsibility for protecting environment since their childhood and it is the responsibility of government to protect environment.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF CONSUMERS

To check difference amongst environmental responsibility and socio-economic profile of consumers, t-test and ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) test are carried out and the results are given in Table-7.

Table-7. Difference amongst Environmental Responsibility and Socio-Economic Profile of Consumers

Particulars	t-Value / F-Value	Sig.
Gender and Environmental Responsibility	4.501** (t-value)	.000
Age Category and Environmental Responsibility	5.922** (F-Value)	.000
Education and Environmental Responsibility	16.120** (F-Value)	.000
Monthly Income and Environmental Responsibility	9.403** (F-Value)	.000
Marital Status and Environmental Responsibility	4.193** (t-value)	.000
Type of Family and Environmental Responsibility	5.095** (t-value)	.000

** Significant at 1 % level

The t-values and F-values display that significant difference exist in environmental responsibility amongst socio-economic profile of consumers. Consequently, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

H. RELATION AMONGST ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN, ATTITUDE AND RESPONSIBILITY AND GREEN PURCHASING BEHAVIOUR OF CONSUMERS

The relation amongst environmental concern, attitude and responsibility and green purchasing behaviour of consumers was studied by using correlation analysis and the results are given in Table-8.

Table-8. Relation amongst Environmental Concern, Attitude and Responsibility and Green Purchasing Behaviour of Consumers

Particulars	Environmental Concern	Environmental Attitude	Environmental Responsibility	Green Purchasing Behaviour
Environmental Concern	1.00			
Environmental Attitude	0.28**	1.00		
Environmental Responsibility	0.24**	0.31**	1.00	
Green Purchasing Behaviour	0.53**	0.55**	0.57**	1.00

** Significant at 1 % level

The correlation co-efficient amongst environmental concern and green purchasing behaviour of consumers is 0.53, which is positively and moderately interrelated. The correlation co-efficient amongst environmental attitude and green purchasing behaviour of consumers is 0.55, that is positively and moderately related. The correlation co-efficient amongst environmental responsibility and green purchasing behaviour of consumers is 0.57, it is positively and moderately associated. As an outcome, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

VII CONCLUSION

The findings of this study make clear that significant difference prevails amongst environmental concern, environmental attitude and environmental responsibility and socio-economic profile of consumers. Environmental concern, environmental attitude and environmental responsibility have positive, moderate and significant relation with green purchasing behaviour of consumers. Therefore, consumers must live harmoniously with natural environment and they should not make any attempts to modify character of environment and consumers must enthusiastically involve in conservation of environment. Further, Government and environmental organizations and non government organizations should make consumers to

realize their responsibilities and necessity for protection of environment through various awareness programmes and campaigns and incentives. In addition, to encourage green purchasing amongst consumers, producers and marketers must inform them effectively need for conservation of environment through their promotional and marketing strategies and programmes.

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