



GLOBALIZATION EFFECT ON INDIAN RETAILING: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON RETAIL CONSUMERS

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ABSTRACT

Globalization has created many-a-fold impact on countries economy over the last few years. The impact of globalization can be seen on countries retail sector as well. Organized retailing is one of the flourishing sectors in India's economy and showing huge potential to flourish in the future. At the same time the organized retailing is generating some challenges for the traditional unorganized retail sector of the country.

In the light of the current scenario the purpose of this study is to identify and compare the current satisfaction level of the customers and to focus light on the emerging challenges for the traditional unorganized retailing. The study has been carried out in the city of Patna, Bihar.

A cross-sectional descriptive design has been opted to conduct the study and a survey has been conducted among 272 retail consumers from various areas of Patna by applying quota sampling technique. The view (perceived value, attitude & perceived service quality) of such respondents have been measured to check their satisfaction level. Then satisfaction towards both organized and unorganized retailing has also been compared. Impact factors against consumer responses have also been measured to identify the factors contributing as the emerging challenges for unorganized retailing in India.

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INTRODUCTION

Globalization, being the part of India's new economic reform (popularly known as, *Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization* or *LPG*) has many a fold impact on Indian economy. Globalization is one of the major contributors to make the country's economy growing and globally competitive (Malik). In spite of all such positive impact it has created various challenges to the country's economy. The effect of globalization is evident on countries economic, social, cultural, commercial system etc.

Since the early 1990's, the services sector of India has started to internationalize due to globalization and the impact of such of Globalization is seen on countries retail sector as well. Globalization has connected the entire retail market of the world. Global competition forces the retailers to source their brand abroad. In order to survive or to grab the opportunities of the unsaturated markets, the global retail giants are unceasingly expanding their business in various countries around the world. Most of the global giants from the developed nations are moving towards the untouched market of the developing countries. As in such nations, many retailers find a great price and quality to spread their global business

(Hong & Mcgoldrick, 1996). India is one of such potential markets.

In post liberalization era, retail can be considered as one of the flourishing sectors of the Indian economy. Retail giants from around the world are penetrating into the country to grab the opportunities of enormous profit. Although the organized retailing has covered only 4 to 5 % of the countries retail market, consumers are unceasingly getting attracted towards this sector. This sector is also showing huge potential to flourish in the future. At the same time the organized retailing is generating some challenges for the traditional unorganized retail sector of the country. The future of unorganized retail sector in India is suffering as, at the one hand organized retail is congregating into the life of urban consumers; at the other side the unorganized retail is gradually facing huge threat day-by-day. Gradually the organized retailing becomes the place of attraction for the customers. Modern day retail outlets are very much focused on maintaining customer supportive facilities and attractive tangibles around the store. These amenities such as; prominent merchandising, facilities of elevators, attractive lighting, air-conditioning, washroom, aisle placement and width, carpeting and architecture also contributes to the overall image of the store (Engel, Blackwell, & Miniard, 1995).

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The Concept of Globalization

The term globalization has formerly emerged from English. Since the origination the concept; globalization has inspired plentiful interpretations and meanings. The Swedish journalist Thomas Larsson (2001), in his book “*The Race to the Top: The Real Story of Globalization*”, states that globalization “is the process of the shrinking of the world, the shortening of distances, and the closeness of things. It allows the increased interaction of any person on one part of the world to someone found on the other side of the world, to benefit”.

The Concept of Retailing

Retailing is the final stage of the supply chain of any business activity. By virtue of this fact, retailing holds a crucial place in the world’s economy. Various definitions have been examined to understand the scope or the concept of the term retail.

Philip Kotler opined that retailing is the process of selling goods or services to the final consumer for their personal, non-business use. A retailer or retail store is any business enterprise, the sales volume of which comes mainly from retailing. It is the last stage in the physical distribution chain. Retailing is simply the selling of products to the final consumers for their household consumption (Berman & Evans, 2009).

Retail Sector can basically be classified in to two segments. One is organized segment and the other one is unorganized segment. As far as India is concerned, this organized segment contributes only about 4 to 5% of the retail trade and the unorganized segment contributes to remaining 95 to 96% of the retail trade’

Major Retail formats in India

The major retail formats in India have depicted as bellow (Prafulla & Brijesh, 2013)-

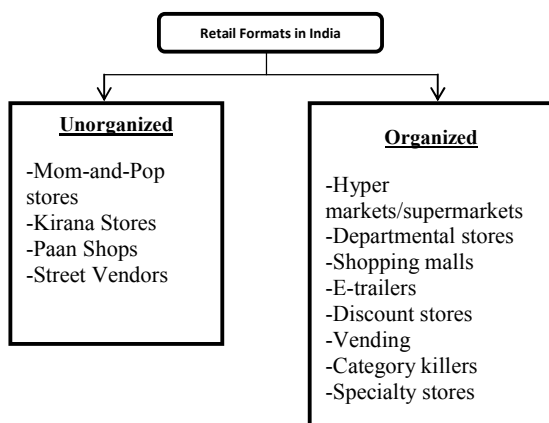


Figure 1 Retail Formats of India

Retail trade in India: Current Status

In post liberalization era retail industry is undergoing a revolutionary change. Retailing in India is one of the pillars of its economy and accounts for about 22 percent of its GDP (McKinsey & Company, 2007; Anand, 2011). Country’s retail market is projected to be US\$ 500 billion and one of the top five retail markets in the world by its economic value in near future. With more than 1.2 billion people, India is one of the fastest growing and potential retail markets in the world (Bharadwaj, Swaroop, & Vittal, 2005). India has the highest

shop density in the world, with 11 outlets per 1000 people. India's retail and logistics industry employs about 40 million Indians (3.3% of Indian population) (Kalyanasundaram, 2012).

Retail density of the country is 6 percent, which is highest in the world (Parvathamma, 2014).

The organized retailing in the country is growing at a swift speed and is expected to account for 24 per cent of the overall retail market by 2020.

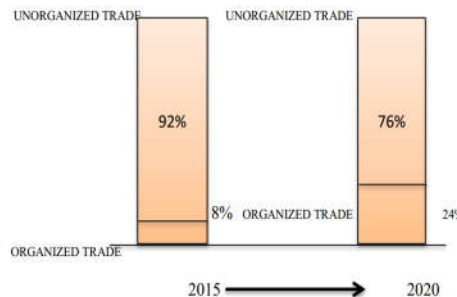


Figure 2 Significant scope for expansion in organized retail

As far as Bihar is concerned (as the study population consists of the retail consumers of Patna) the retail scenario has been changed dramatically in the state over the last few years. Most of the retail giants are operating in the city these days. Few among them are like; Reliance retail stores, Big bazar, Pantaloons, Café Coffee Day, KFC, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Vishal mega Mart etc. All these major retail operators have added dramatically to the states GDP in last few years.

Smith (1989) & Sellers (1990) have opined that today’s retail environment is changing more rapidly than ever before. Modern day retailing is escalating competition and attracting more classy and demanding customers who have great expectations related to their consumption experiences. Such sophisticated demands of the customers are influencing them towards the modern day organized retailing.

Although the unorganized retail is covering the major part of the countries/states retail industry, the organized retailing has shown tremendous growth in the size and market dominance over the last few years. The attractive and pioneering features of modern retailing are gradually become a great source of attraction for the customers these days. These innovative and attractive features are adding to their satisfaction level as well. On the other hand increasing rate of customer attraction and satisfaction towards organized retailing is throwing challenges for the traditional retailers of the country. In the light of the current scenario this study is an effort to measure the current satisfaction level of the customers for both the organized and unorganized retailing in Patna. The purpose was also to compare the current satisfaction level and to focus light on the factors emerging as the challenges for the traditional unorganized retailing. The ultimate purpose was to generalize

How Globalization is affecting the Unorganized Retailing in India?

On the basis of extensive literature review three variables (*Perceived Value, Customer Attitude, and Perceived Service Quality*) have been identified as the major determinant of customer satisfaction in retailing. The following part of the

paper will deal with the factors (Independent and dependent variables):

Perceived Value

Zeithaml (1988) opined that it is “the consumer’s overall assessment of the utility of a product (or service) based on perceptions of what is received and what is given”. By this definition, Zeithaml (1988) identified four different connotations of the term ‘value’:

1. Value is price effectiveness.
2. Value is consumer’s expectation from the product.
3. Value is the quality of the product.
4. Value is what consumer gets for the price they pay.

Consumer Attitude

Attitudes are always reflected to customers’ favorable or unfavorable assessments, feelings, and inclinations towards object or idea. It can affect the consumers’ buying willingness. Attitude is, a person’s evaluation of a specified behavior involving an object or outcome (Ajzen & Fishbein, 1980) and consumer loyalty is the relationship between the relative attitude towards an entity (Dick & Basu, 1994). Yi and Jeon (2003) argued that favorable attitude may lead to customer loyalty.

Perceived Service Quality

Service quality is more difficult to measure as compared to measurement of quality of goods (Parasuraman, Zeithaml, & Berry, 1985) One of the prominent definitions of the concept embraces it as ‘conformance to requirements’ (Cowles, Evans, & Crosby, 1990). Service quality can be conceptualized as the difference between consumer expectations of ‘what they want’ and their perceptions of ‘what they get.’ Based on this conceptualization they proposed a service quality measurement scale called ‘SERVQUAL’ (Zeithaml & Leonard, 1988).

Customer satisfaction

The concept of customer satisfaction is an extremely popular subject in management literature. Higher satisfaction of the customers leads to higher loyalty rates and increased economic returns that drive strategic business valuation (Anderson, Fornell, & Lehmann, 1994). Attainment of high level customer satisfaction is very essential for any business. Satisfied customers are most likely to be loyal and to make repeat purchase for a longer period of time (Jeevananda, 2011).

Literature reveals that the determinants mentioned above have their effect on customer satisfaction in retail industry. By considering these facts the following objectives have been fixed to be revealed during the study.

Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of this study are-

1. To measure the effect of perceived value, attitude & perceived service quality on consumers satisfaction towards organized and unorganized retailing.
2. To compare the satisfaction level of consumers for both organized and unorganized retailing.
3. To identify the major challenges for unorganized retailing, due to organized retailing in the era of globalization.

Scope of the Study

This study has been carried out in the city of Patna. The study is basically focused on the consumers of both organized and unorganized retailing of the city. Data have been collected from various age group retail consumers, with different educational backgrounds, from various areas of the city. The study is not limited to any specific retail segment. Later on, on the basis of empirical findings of the study the result has been generalized for similar geographic and demographic settings.

Limitations of the Research

- The geographical area chosen is limited to the city of Patna only.
- The number of variables chosen for the study might not be exhaustive.
- The sample size considered may not be sufficient to generalize the findings.

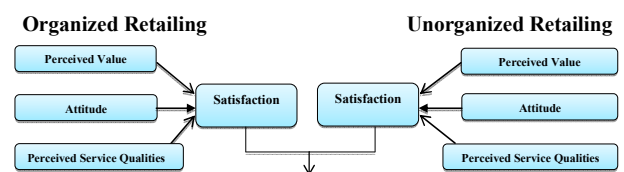
Hypotheses of the Study

The effect of perceived value, attitude & perceived service quality on satisfaction has been measured for both organized and unorganized retailing. Later on, the satisfaction levels of the same group of respondents have also been compared.

To reach the above mentioned purpose the following hypotheses have been formulated:

- H0₁:** There is no significant relationship between perceived values of unorganized retail consumers with their satisfaction.
- H0₂:** There is no significant relationship between attitudes of unorganized retail consumers with their satisfaction.
- H0₃:** There is no significant relationship between perceived service qualities of unorganized retail consumers with their satisfaction.
- H0₄:** There is no significant relationship between perceived values of organized retail consumers with their satisfaction.
- H0₅:** There is no significant relationship between attitudes of organized retail consumers with their satisfaction.
- H0₆:** There is no significant relationship between perceived service qualities of organized retail consumers with their satisfaction.
- H0₇:** There is no significant difference of consumer’s satisfaction in unorganized and organized retailing.

The hypothetical relationships among the variables have been shown as under:



Comparison of Satisfaction Level
Figure 3 Conceptual Model of the Study

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is the application of a cross-sectional descriptive design by using survey as a method of data collection. A questionnaire based on five-point Likert’s scale has been used as a tool for data collection. The choices of the variables and

the items in the questionnaire have been done with the help of extensive literature review. The samples have been selected by using a quota sampling by considering gender as a base. In the literature of consumer behavior; it has been found that gender has a major influence on consumer buying decision. By considering the fact, gender has been taken as a criterion for sampling. As per details from Census 2011, Patna had population of 5,838,465 of which male and female were 3,078,512 (53%) and 2,759,953 (47%) respectively (Census Report 2011). Sample size represents the number of respondents selected from the overall population that are used in the research (Newman, 1998). To fix the sample size and the quality of the questionnaire, a pilot study has been conducted. For this purpose, data has been collected from 50 retail customers. Standard deviation estimated from the pilot study has been used to determine the sample size. As the population is infinite, the formula for infinite population has been used for the purpose (Hoelter, 1983; Hair et al., 2008; Hoe, 2008). The sample size found to be appropriate was, 272 (Male-144, Female-128). These 272 are the respondents who purchase both from organized as well as unorganized retail outlets.

Sample size determination

$$n = s^2 * z^2 / e^2$$

Where,

s = sample standard deviation 0.421 (from pilot test)

z = 1.96 (95% confidence)

e = expressed in terms of units we are estimating (0.05 scaling units)

$$n = (0.421)^2 * (1.96)^2 / (0.05)^2$$

$$n = 276$$

To achieve the required sample size, initially 400 questionnaires were distributed. 272 perfectly filled questionnaires have been opted for the purpose (Male-144, Female-128) and rest were discarded due to some response error and non-response of the respondents. Cronbach's Alpha value has been calculated to measure the internal consistency of the constructs. With the help of extensive literature review, content validity of the questionnaire has been ensured. Multiple Regression and paired sample t-test have been used to test the hypotheses of the study.

Analysis and Findings

Reliability of the Scales

The cronbach's alpha value calculated for each of the scales developed for organized and unorganized retail consumers are more than 6 (as given in Table 1:), it can be said that, all the scales developed for the purpose are reliable (George & Mallery, 2003). The alpha values for each of the scales (for both organized & unorganized retailing) developed are listed below-

Table 1 Cronbach's Alpha Values

Scales	Alpha Values
Organized Retailing	
Perceived value	.854
Attitude	.877
Perceived Service Quality	.868
Customer Satisfaction	.884
Unorganized Retailing	
Perceived value	.731
Attitude	.793
Perceived Service Quality	.694
Customer Satisfaction	.609

Results of Multiple Regression

To identify the factors contributing most towards customer satisfaction for both organized and unorganized retailing, the multiple regression has been applied in both the cases. The results are as follows:

Organized Retailing

Table 2 ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	4891.329	3	1630.443	87.142	.000 ^a
Residual	5014.344	268	18.710		
Total	9905.673	271			

a. Predictors: (Constant), PSQC, PVC, ATC¹
b. Dependent Variable: CSC²

¹ PSQC=Perceived service Quality Composite

PVC= Perceived value Composite

ATC= Attitude Composite² CSC= Customer Satisfaction composite

As with the simple regression, we look to the p-value of the F-test to see if the overall model is significant. With a p-value of zero to three decimal places, it can be considered as statistically significant. Since, the p-value for this model is less than 0.05; the model developed can be considered as good.

Table 3 t- Statistics Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	5.780	1.439		4.017	.000
1 PVC	.027	.036	.033	.763	.446
ATC	.530	.051	.563	10.358	.000
PSQC	.140	.038	.200	3.668	.000

a. Dependent Variable: CSC

The above table explains that the p-values for the t-tests of ATC (Customer Attitude) and PSQC (Perceived Service Quality) are less than 0.05. So, for both the cases the null hypotheses can be rejected and it means all the independent variables are significant to explain the dependent variables. For PVC (Perceived Value) it is more than 0.05. It means in this case the null hypothesis is accepted and it can be said that the independent variable in this case has no effect on the dependent variable.

Based on the above table, the equation for the regression line developed is-

$$CSC = 5.780 + 0.530 * ATC + 0.140 * PSQC$$

Using this equation we can come up with a prediction for customer satisfaction in organized retailing.

Unorganized retailing

Table 4 Anova

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1596.335	3	532.112	53.038	.000 ^a
Residual	2688.724	268	10.033		
Total	4285.059	271			

a. Predictors: (Constant), PSQC, ATC, PVC³
b. Dependent Variable: CSC⁴

³ PSQC=Perceived service Quality Composite

PVC= Perceived value Composite

ATC= Attitude Composite

⁴CSC= Customer Satisfaction Composite

Since, the p-value for this model (in case of unorganized retailing) is also less than 0.05; the model developed can be considered as good.

Table 5 t-Statistics Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	9.405	.981		9.591	.000
1 PVC	.300	.048	.402	6.299	.000
ATC	.172	.082	.133	2.092	.037
PSQC	.268	.060	.342	4.500	.000

a. Dependent Variable: CSC

The above table explains that the p-values for the t-tests are less than 0.05. So, all the null hypotheses have been rejected and it means all the independent variables are significant to explain the dependent variables, i.e. they have all predictive abilities for the dependent variables.

The table also shows the unstandardized and standardized coefficients. Based on the above table, the equation for the regression line developed is-

$$CSC = 9.405 + 0.300 * PVC + 0.172 * ATC + 0.268 * PSQC$$

Using this equation we can come up with a prediction for customer satisfaction in unorganized retailing

Result of Paired t-test

To compare the satisfaction level of the customers for both the organized and unorganized retailing, a paired t-test has been performed. The result is as given bellow-

Table 6 Paired Samples t-Test

Pair 1	Mean	Std. Deviation	Paired Differences		t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	
			Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower				Upper
CSCORG - CSCUNO	1.3040E1	9.74179	.59068	11.87753	14.20335	22.077	271	.000

*CSCORG- Customer Satisfaction Composite score in Organized Retailing
CSCUNO- Customer Satisfaction Composite score in Unorganized Retailing

The above table shows that the mean difference calculated for customer satisfaction of both organized and unorganized retailing is positive and the p-value for t-statistics is also significant. So, it can be said that customer satisfaction for organized retailing is more than that for unorganized retailing.

Result of Impact factor Analysis

The attitude and the perceived service quality has been found common in both the cases (i.e. both these factors are contributing in customers satisfaction for both organized and unorganized retailing). So, to compare both these independent variables, the impact factors of consumer’s response against each of the items developed under each of the scales (i.e. attitude and perceived service quality) have been compared. The basic purpose was to identify the items for which consumers are more positive.

The impact factor with value less than 3 (neutral value) denotes that the corresponding items have less influence on the consumer satisfaction; whereas value more than 3 denotes that the corresponding items have more influence on consumer satisfaction. A value equal to 3 means people are neutral on that particular item. The impact factor corresponding to total for a factor denotes its importance. For attitude, a total value greater than 21 (the neutral value) means that consumer satisfaction is affected considerably by consumer’s attitude towards the particular sector of retailing; whereas value less than 21 means no such effect. For perceived service quality the neutral value is 30.

The following table demonstrates the calculated impact factors-

Table 7 Impact Factors

Item- Attitude	Impact Factor	
	Organized Retailing	Unorganized Retailing
1. Popularity of the shop	3.37	2.03
2. Positive reference from others	3.16	1.93
3. A place of enjoyment	2.89	1.54
4. Environment is brighter and attractive	3.30	1.68
5. Products are classified properly	3.56	2.06
6. Computerized billing & various payment options	3.59	1.82
7. Prices are clearly visible	3.27	2.05
Mean of Total	23.18	13.13
Item- Perceived Service Quality		
1. Promptness in services offered	3.26	2.85
2. More than one counter for checkout	3.29	2.48
3. Long working hours of the shop	3.21	2.56
4. Employees are polite and helpful	3.36	2.55
5. Handling of customer complaints are prompt	3.08	2.39
6. Stock out situation never exist	3.26	1.87
7. Ambience is good and attractive	3.41	1.83
8. Parking facility is available	3.02	1.92
9. Products are available under one umbrella	3.39	2.01
10. Enjoyment facilities for children	3.26	2.07
Mean of Total	32.48	22.57

The findings from the above table shows that for most of the items developed, the impact factors for organized retailing are more than the neutral value and for all the items the impact factors for unorganized retailing, are less than the neutral value. All such items can be considered as effective contributors for customer’s satisfaction in organized retailing. Total values also suggest that positive attitude and better service quality can be considered as essential contributor for customer’s satisfaction in organized retailing.

Table 8 Summary of Hypothesis testing

Null Hypotheses No.	Test Results	
	Accepted	Rejected
1.	Null	Alternative
2.	Alternative	Null
3	Alternative	Null
4	Alternative	Null
5	Alternative	Null
6	Alternative	Null
7	Alternative	Null

DISCUSSION

The basic purpose of this study was to identify the major challenges associated with unorganized retailing in this globalized era of business. On the basis of extensive literature review three factors have been identified, which can be considered as the major determinant of customer satisfaction in retailing (for both organized and unorganized retailing). These factors are- Perceived Value, Customer Attitude and Perceived Service Quality.

The result of multiple regressions shows attitude and perceived service quality is contributing in customer satisfaction in case of organized retailing.

But, perceived value has no effect in this case, which contradicts some of the earlier research works as well. On the other hand it has been found that all three variables have

profound effect on customer satisfaction in unorganized retailing. The regression result shows that two variables (attitude and perceived service quality) are common in terms of their contribution for customer satisfaction for organized and unorganized retailing.

There after a paired t-test has been performed to compare the satisfaction level of customers for both the types of retailing. It has been found that, customers of organized retailing are more satisfied in comparison to unorganized retailing.

On the basis of the above findings the conceptual model developed in the study has been tested and the accepted model can be illustrated as bellow

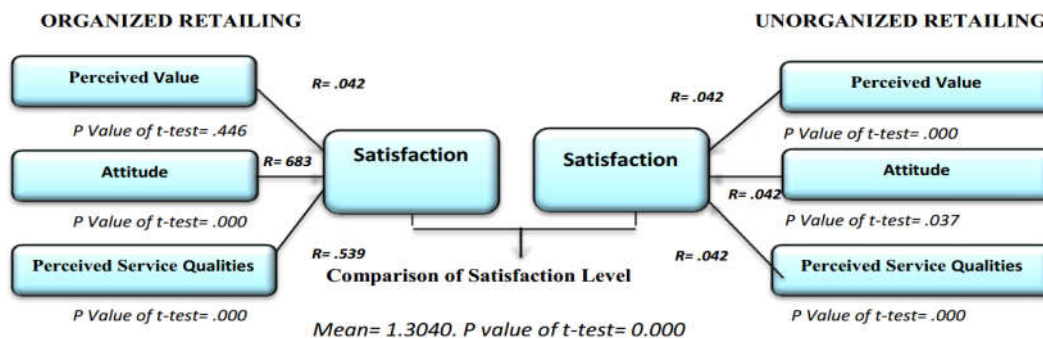


Figure 4 Conceptual Model of the Study

To identify the effectiveness of the items developed in the scale, a comparison of impact factors in terms consumers response against each of the items have been done. For this purpose the two common contributors (independent variables), attitude and perceived service quality have taken into consideration. Customer’s perceived value has not been considered in this case, as it has no effect on satisfaction in case of organized retailing.

It has been found that in case of organized retailing customers are more positive and they have responded favorably. On the basis of such empirical findings it can be said that the items for which customers are more positive can be considered as the major emerging challenges for unorganized retailing. These challenges are mainly related to customer’s attitude towards unorganized retailing and the service quality offered by unorganized retail sector. So, the major challenges associated with unorganized retailing in India in this globalized era of business are related to lack of better and attractive services in terms of-

- Better and attractive environment
- Recreational facilities
- Computerized billing system
- Proper assortment of products
- Availability of various items under one roof
- Prompt and efficient services from the side of the retail employees
- Promptness in customers problem solving
- Convenient checkout points
- Parking facilities
- Long working hours
- Effective promotional activities to create maximum awareness

CONCLUSION

The progression of Indian organized retailing (after globalization) is mainly due to the changes in the consumer’s behavioral pattern over the years. These changes in this globalized era have come into existence due to increased income, changing, lifestyles, and patterns of demography which are favorable for organized retailing. Now the customer desires to shop at a place where they can get food, entertainment and shopping all under one roof with better and attractive facilities. This has given Indian organized retail market a major boost.

To survive in this global competition, the unorganized retailer’s needs to take care of all the challenges as mentioned above. They need to provide better and attractive services with good quality products, which in turn can create a positive attitude and more satisfaction among the customers of unorganized retailing. They need to be dynamic with their strategies in this changing business environment. The findings of the study suggests that, in this globalized era of competition, the traditional retailers in the country need to have a serious thought over their existing method of operations to survive and to compete effectively.

Avenues for Future research

To generalize the concept more empirically, further research is required in wider geographic areas on large number of samples. Various other variables should also be taken into consideration, to measure the effect of such on retail customer satisfaction.

Finally, it can be concluded that, although a major part of Indian retail sector is covered by traditional unorganized retailing, the modern day retailing is continuously generating some challenges for the traditional retail system in the country.

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