

ROLE OF CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT IN USAGE OF BANKING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

**N.Kalainehshan
Dr.M.Sakthivel Murugan**

Abstract

Entry of new banks has resulted in a paradigm shift in the ways of banking in India. The growing competitions as well as expectations have led to increase awareness amongst banks on the role and importance of technology in banking. The arrival of foreign and private banks with their superior state-of-art services has pushed Indian Banks also to follow suit by going in for the latest technologies so as to meet the threat of competition and retain their customer base. The success of technology enabled services offered by new age banks depends on the banker and customer relationship to a great extent. In this view point, the present study is taken up for research to decipher the role of banker- customer relationship in using the technology enabled services offered by the banks.

Keywords: *Service quality, Banker-Customer relationship, CRM practices.*

Introduction

For a long time, Indian banks faced very little competition and operated in a protected economy. Now, highly computerized foreign banks are beginning to compete seriously with the nationalized banks. Banks which use IT mainly focus on three areas viz. meeting customers' service expectations, cutting down the costs and managing dynamic competitive environment. For this purpose, the banks are venturing into new financial products and service options that would help them grow without losing existing customers. And any new financial product or service that a bank offers will be intrinsically related to technology and automation.

Indian banking industry today is in the midst of an IT revolution. Information technology extends far beyond the computational capabilities of computers. Combinations of regulatory and competitive reasons have led to increasing importance of total banking automation in the Indian Banking Industry. Information Technology has basically been used under two different avenues in Banking- one is Communication & Connectivity and other is Business Process Reengineering.

Objectives of the study

1. To find out the role of banker and customer relationship on using the technology enabled services offered by the banks.
2. To analyze the association between banker and customer relationship and technology enabled services in usage patterns in banks.

Research Methodology

The present study has adopted both descriptive and analytical methodologies. The descriptive methodology has been focused on review in the literary evidences that are available through external and internal sources. This study is based on the primary data collected from the customers of the selected commercial banks in Kancheepuram. The sample size is arrived at by using scientific method and fixed at 462. The data required for the study is collected through sample survey using a structured questionnaire. The reliability of the questionnaire is tested through cronbach alpha and found the reliability at 0.8653.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

In this section, the analysis of the data is done by using the appropriate statistics through SPSS version 15. The first part of the study deals with descriptive statistics and the second part deals with inferential statistics. The major findings and the results of the analysis are discussed.

Table 1: Distribution of sample on the basis of Experience

Age Group in years	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20	59	12.8
21-30	198	42.9
31-40	150	32.5
Above 40	55	11.9
Total	462	100.0

Source: Primary data

It is observed from table 1 that the majority of the customers in the sample survey using technological services offered by the banks belong to 21-30 years age- group, followed by 31-40 years age group. It indicates the role of age in adopting and availing technological services offered by the banks.

Table 2: Distribution of Sample on the basis of Educational Stream

Education Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Up to SSLC	91	19.7
HSC	71	15.4
UG	126	27.3
PG	111	24.0
Professional	63	13.6
Total	462	100.0

Source: Primary data

It is noted from the table 2 that the majority of the respondents in the sample using technical services offered by banks are under graduates, followed by post graduates. The simple reason could be the majority of them have technical back ground and working in IT firms & tech-savvy.

Table 3: Distribution of sample on the basis of occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Private Employee	247	53.5
Government Employee	87	18.8
Business	59	12.8
Professional	69	14.9
Total	462	100.0

Source: Primary data

It is found from the table 3, that the majority of the customers using technical services offered by banks are employees working in private organizations. It indicates that the employees of private organizations are more technologically inclined. In addition, private employees won't get time to visit banks frequently during working time. It is also difficult for them to reach the banks located in distance places due to logistic issues and traffic. In such conditions, private employees profusely access technological services offered by banks.

Table 4: Distribution of sample on the basis of Annual income

Annual Income in Lakhs	Frequency	Percentage
Below 1	170	36.8
1-3	177	38.3
3-5	71	15.4
Above 5	44	9.5
Total	462	100.0

It is noted from the table 4, that 38.3 percent of the sample respondents belong to income group of less than Rs.3 lakhs per year. It indicates the usage of banking services is increasingly being accessed by the middle income group.

Inferential Statistics

Hypothesis-I: There is no relationship between the number of years holding a bank account and the dimensions of technology enabled services adoption in banks.

Table 5: showing Group Statistics along with ANOVA result

		No. of years holding Bank Account				F value	P value
		Below 5	6-10	11-15	Above 15		
Awareness of Services	Mean	48.80	48.82	49.30	49.33	0.076	0.973
	SD	(9.41)	(9.47)	(9.74)	(10.35)		
Problems in availing Services	Mean	38.47	37.84	36.28	34.42	5.063	0.002
	SD	(6.19)	(6.42)	(6.38)	(8.60)		
Opinion about not availing services	Mean	37.49	35.77	35.07	30.72	9.183	0.000
	SD	(6.50)	(7.80)	(6.95)	(10.13)		
Influencing in usage of services	Mean	40.05	40.34	38.00	38.17	4.134	0.007
	SD	(5.10)	(5.70)	(5.92)	(6.19)		
Improve the quality of services	Mean	60.60	60.31	58.70	57.19	2.301	0.076
	SD	(7.83)	(8.25)	(9.31)	(10.01)		

Since p value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance which means that there is no relationship between the tenure of bank account maintained with the level of awareness of technology enabled services among the customers in the sample area, where as there is a relationship between the tenure of account maintained with bank and the problems in availing the technology enabled services, reasons for not availing the technology enabled services, factors influencing usage of technology enabled services and suggestions to improve the quality of services in banks and indicates at highly significant relationship with the p value of less than 0.001 and 0.05 respectively. Customers with 5 years and below account-holding period have shown high degree on the variable of 'improve the usage patterns of selected technology' (mean value 60.60). But the customers do not show improvement regarding the overall level of awareness.

Hypothesis-II: There is no relationship between the number of times visiting the bank and the dimensions of technology enabled services adoption in banks.

Table 6: Group Statistics along with ANOVA Result

		No. of times visiting bank per month			F value	P value
		Below 3	3-5	Above 5		
Awareness of Services	Mean	49.13	49.32	47.61	0.971	0.379
	SD	(9.84)	(9.91)	(7.81)		
Problems in availing services	Mean	37.44	38.54	36.27	3.354	0.036
	SD	(6.74)	(6.19)	(6.77)		
Opinion about not availing services	Mean	35.94	36.79	34.59	2.310	0.100
	SD	(7.59)	(7.72)	(7.09)		
Influencing in usage of services	Mean	40.27	40.65	36.33	20.077	0.000
	SD	(4.94)	(5.79)	(5.68)		
Improve the quality of services	Mean	60.88	60.81	55.82	12.712	0.000
	SD	(8.47)	(7.72)	(8.50)		

Since p value is less than 0.001, the null hypothesis- that there is no relationship between the number of times visiting a bank and the dimensions of factors influencing the usage of technology enabled services, suggestions to improve the technology enabled services adoption in banks- is rejected at 1% level of significance. On the other hand, the level of awareness , problems in availing the technology enabled services and reasons for not using technology enabled services in banks is accepted at 5% level of significance, indicates there is no relationship between the number of times visiting to bank and the usage awareness and problems among the customers.

Hypothesis-III: There is no relationship between the type of bank account maintained and the dimensions of technology enabled services adoption in banks.

Table 7: Group Statistics along with ANOVA Result

		Type of bank account maintained				F value	P value
		Public Sector Bank	Private Sector Bank	Foreign Bank	Co-op Bank		
Awareness of Services	Mean	49.22	48.90	46.44	48.40	0.669	0.571
	SD	(9.22)	(9.91)	(10.25)	(9.60)		
Problems in availing services	Mean	38.23	37.23	37.20	33.10	4.156	0.006
	SD	(6.07)	(6.78)	(8.04)	(7.99)		
Opinion about not availing services	Mean	37.18	34.67	34.48	33.45	4.945	0.002
	SD	(7.02)	(7.97)	(7.54)	(8.78)		
Influencing in usage of services	Mean	40.44	39.02	37.60	38.25	3.964	0.008
	SD	(5.19)	(6.06)	(4.95)	(6.02)		
Improve the quality of services	Mean	60.70	59.75	56.44	56.30	3.447	0.017
	SD	(8.04)	(8.64)	(9.13)	(9.28)		

There is a relationship between the type of bank account maintained and the dimensions of problems faced in using the technology enabled services, reasons for not using, and factors influencing the usage of technology enabled services adoption in banks and it is statistically significant at 1% level with the recorded p value of less than 0.001. On the other hand, it is observed that there is no relationship between the type of bank account maintained and the dimensions of level of awareness, suggestions to improve the usage of technology enabled services adoption in banks with the recorded p value of less than 0.05 at 5% level of significance.

Analysis of data using chi-square test

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no association between the number of years holding an account and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Table 8: Cross Table along with Chi-square Result

No. of years holding Bank Account		Level of Awareness of Services			Chi-Square Value	P-Value
		Low	Average	High		
Below 5	Count	56	85	51	11.199	.082
	% within No. of years holding Bank Account	29.2%	44.3%	26.6%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	42.7%	41.9%	39.8%		
6-10	Count	41	82	40		
	% within No. of years holding Bank Account	25.2%	50.3%	24.5%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	31.3%	40.4%	31.3%		
11-15	Count	19	28	24		
	% within No. of years holding Bank Account	26.8%	39.4%	33.8%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	14.5%	13.8%	18.8%		
Above 15	Count	15	8	13		
	% within No. of years holding Bank Account	41.7%	22.2%	36.1%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	11.5%	3.9%	10.2%		
Total	Count	131	203	128		
	% within No. of years holding Bank Account	28.4%	43.9%	27.7%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Since p value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis - that there is no association between the number of years holding an account and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers - is accepted at 5% level of significance. It indicates the moderate level of association between the number of years holding an account and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no association between Locality and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Table 9: Cross Table along with Chi-square Result

Localit y		Level of Awareness of Services			Chi-Square Value	P-Value
		Low	Average	High		
Urban	Count	91	153	100	2.711	.258
	% within Locality	26.5%	44.5%	29.1%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	69.5%	75.4%	78.1%		
Semi urban	Count	40	50	28		
	% within Locality	33.9%	42.4%	23.7%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	30.5%	24.6%	21.9%		
Total	Count	131	203	128		
	% within Locality	28.4%	43.9%	27.7%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Since p value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis -that there is no association between Locality and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers - is accepted at 5% level of significance. It is conclude that there is no association between Locality and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers in the sample area.

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no association between the number of times visiting a bank and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Table 10: Cross Table along with Chi-square Result

No. of times visiting bank per month		Level of Awareness of Services			Chi-Square Value	P-Value
		Low	Average	High		
Below 3	Count	66	87	71	8.454	.076
	% within No. of times visiting bank per month	29.5%	38.8%	31.7%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	50.4%	42.9%	55.5%		
3-5	Count	40	72	43		

	% within No. of times visiting bank per month	25.8%	46.5%	27.7%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	30.5%	35.5%	33.6%		
Above 5	Count	25	44	14		
	% within No. of times visiting bank per month	30.1%	53.0%	16.9%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	19.1%	21.7%	10.9%		
Total	Count	131	203	128		
	% within No. of times visiting bank per month	28.4%	43.9%	27.7%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Since p value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis – that there is no association between the number of times visiting a bank and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers - is accepted at 5% level of significance. Hence, There is no association between the number of times visiting a bank and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no association between the purpose of visiting a bank and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Table 7: Cross Table along with Chi-square Result

Purpose of visiting to bank		Level of Awareness of Services			Chi-Square Value	P-Value
		Low	Average	High		
Deposit money	Count	56	105	67	10.069	.260
	% within Purpose of visiting to bank	24.6%	46.1%	29.4%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	42.7%	51.7%	52.3%		
Withdraw cash	Count	40	53	33		
	% within Purpose of visiting to bank	31.7%	42.1%	26.2%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	30.5%	26.1%	25.8%		
Getting	Count	15	28	9		

information	% within Purpose of visiting to bank	28.8%	53.8%	17.3%	
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	11.5%	13.8%	7.0%	
Apply for loan	Count	11	10	12	
	% within Purpose of visiting to bank	33.3%	30.3%	36.4%	
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	8.4%	4.9%	9.4%	
Access public utility services	Count	9	7	7	
	% within Purpose of visiting to bank	39.1%	30.4%	30.4%	
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	6.9%	3.4%	5.5%	
Total	Count	131	203	128	
	% within Purpose of visiting to bank	28.4%	43.9%	27.7%	
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Since p value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis, there is no association between the purpose of visiting a bank and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers is accepted at 5% level of significance. Hence, it is inferred that, there is no association between the purpose of visiting a bank and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no association between the type of account maintained and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Table 8: Cross Table along with Chi-square Result

Type of bank account maintained		Level of Awareness of Services			Chi-Square Value	P-Value
		Low	Average	High		
Public Sector Bank	Count	66	125	63	10.113	.120
	% within Type of bank account maintained	26.0%	49.2%	24.8%		
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	50.4%	61.6%	49.2%		
Private Sector	Count	50	59	54		

Bank	% within Type of bank account maintained	30.7%	36.2%	33.1%
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	38.2%	29.1%	42.2%
Foreign Bank	Count	10	11	4
	% within Type of bank account maintained	40.0%	44.0%	16.0%
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	7.6%	5.4%	3.1%
Co-operative Bank	Count	5	8	7
	% within Type of bank account maintained	25.0%	40.0%	35.0%
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	3.8%	3.9%	5.5%
Total	Count	131	203	128
	% within Type of bank account maintained	28.4%	43.9%	27.7%
	% within Level of Awareness of Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Since p value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis – that there is no association between the type of account maintained and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers - is accepted at 5% level of significance. Hence, it is inferred that, there is no association between the type of account maintained and the level of awareness on technology enabled services among the customers.

Summary and Conclusion

Based on the analysis across different sectors of banks, it is seen that the association between the selected demographics, the awareness, problems in availing, reasons for not using and factors influencing technology enabled services in banks - are not statistically significant at 5% level among the sample respondents. It indicates the poor level of impact of demographics on the usage patterns of technology enabled services in banks. Based on the usage patterns, it is observed that there is no association between the usage of technology enabled services and the relationship between the banker and customer. It indicates that the banker customer relationship should be further improved for achieving better standard of enhancement and effective application, adoption & usage of advanced technology enabled services.

References

1. Lovelock, Christopher (2001), *Services marketing; people, Technology, strategy*, 4th edition, prentice Hall.
2. Lev, B, (2001), *Intangible management, measurement and reporting* Washington DC; Brookings Institute press.
3. Carl D. McDaniel (2005). *The Future of Business: The Essentials* Mason, Ohio: South-Western. ISBN 0324320280.
4. John, Joby (2003). *Fundamentals of Customer-Focused Management: Competing Through Service*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger. ISBN 9781567205640.
5. Kessler, Sheila (2003)., *Customer satisfaction toolkit for ISO 9001:2000*. Milwaukee,Wis.: ASQ Quality Press. ISBN 0873895592.
6. Johnson, Michael D.; Anders Gustafssonb, Tor Wallin Andreassenc, Line Lervikc and Jaesung Cha (2001). "The evolution and future of national customer satisfaction index models". *Journal of Economic Psychology* 22(2): 217–245. ISSN 0167-4870.
7. Bluestein, Abram; Michael Moriarty; Ronald J Sanderson (2003). *The Customer Satisfaction Audit*. Axminster: Cambridge Strategy Publications. ISBN 9781902433981.
8. Rekha N, kingshott RPJ and AW ASS (2003) "The impact of Relational plan on Adoption of electronic Banking" *Journal of service marketing*, Vol.17.

About the Authors

N.Kalainehshan

Research Scholar (P.T), Department of Commerce, DB Jain College, Thoraipakkam, Chennai
:kalainehshan@yahoo.co.in

Dr.M.Sakthivel Murugan, Principal (Retd) & Research Supervisor, DB Jain College,
Thoraipakkam, Chennai