

Online Banking Service Quality and Its Impact on Customer Satisfaction

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ABSTRACT

Present study explores the online banking service quality dimensions and its impact on customer's satisfaction. This study tries to inspect the structural association between online banking service quality and customer satisfaction based on separate constructs. Present research applies quantitative approach. The data is gathered from 285 respondents by using structured questionnaires, and the proposed model was tested using structured equation modeling (PLS-SEM). Furthermore, convergent validity and discriminant validity were assessed by researcher. Findings show that all the dimensions are found to have a positive significant influence on customer satisfaction. Findings indicate that service quality plays a very important role in every society, as it has become the basis for how customers interpret online banking and operates with online services. Study adds up considerably to the literature on banking services, and it is also fruitful for the academicians since it demonstrates the way Online banking service quality determinants to predict online satisfaction of customers. This study also useful for those online retailers and managers who want to grab online market. Therefore, study will assist the Online banking sector in building effective marketing strategies to establish long lasting relationships with customers and gain competitive advantages in the market.

Keywords: Online banking service quality, customer satisfaction, banking sector.

1. Introduction

Advances in technology have created new ways for organizations to communicate with their customers. With this innovation, the service sector, especially the banking sector, is facing a major change in reaching out to customers. The banking sector has been the major driver of this growth by creating various departments to attract customers, support business expectations, and manage customer satisfaction using technology (George and Kumar, 2014). This integration of online services has resulted in online marketing. According to Wang *et al.* (2017) It has become the most profitable e-commerce application and many banks have launched online business to provide themselves with two advantages such as improving customer service and reducing costs (Xue *et al.*, 2011). Moreover, this business model will not only benefit banks but also ultimately help customers' needs (Shahzad *et al.*, 2017; Rahi and Ghani, 2016). Through online business, customers can access various business activities anytime and anywhere, and operating costs are greatly reduced (Yoon and Steege, 2013). Therefore, unlike traditional companies, online business allows customers to interact with the website instead of an intermediary, so that companies' marketing creates a positive impact and helps develop relationships with customers (Rod and Ashill, 2010; DeYoung *et al.*, 2007).

However, banks still face difficulties in improving their operations and as a result, customers are reluctant to accept online transactions despite its benefits (Rahi and Ghani, 2019). Banks also face intense competition in attracting and retaining customers and to cope with this competition, they have to provide quality online banking services that can make them competitive (Kandampully *et al.*, 2015; Makanyeza and Chikazhe, 2017). Bank operates into private banks, public sector banks and private banks. Therefore, have opened an online banking service which account all online transactions in Bhopal region. According to the quarterly review of the State Bank of India for the period ending 2024, huge transactions were made among more than 1 million customers in online banking. This represents increase in sales compared to last year. The State Bank of India report (2024) shows that online spending in Bhopal region has increased by 5%. desired level. This may be due to poor services and customer dissatisfaction (Li-hua, 2012). Customers have different views on the quality of

services provided by online banks and traditional banks. Users also welcome the advancement of competition, but the quality of online services alone cannot create a good relationship between banks and customers. Therefore, customer satisfaction and trust are considered important factors in relationship building (Chen, 2013; Chen *et al.*, 2012; Dahlström *et al.*, 2014).

Further research is needed on the service quality of the banking sector (Kaura *et al.*, 2015). It is also important to know the main determinants of online banking services and how customers evaluate the Online services offered by banks, after-sales services (Murali *et al.*, 2016) and even banking (George and Kumar, 2014; Shankar and Jebarajakirthy, 2019; Hammoud *et al.*, 2018, Rahi *et al.*, 2018), but also found some evidence to measure customer satisfaction (OCS) from e-banking service quality dimensions in the context of Bhopal region. Therefore, this study attempted to examine the interrelationships among online banking service quality and customer satisfaction. The determinants of online banking service quality include, website quality, responsiveness, reliability, user's friendliness, personal needs and convenience affecting customer satisfaction. This will help the banking sectors to create a good business strategy, create a long-term customer relationship and achieve good results in the business. Study explained that the relationship between service quality and customer outcomes is stronger when services are separate or related. This has led many banks to further marketing efforts and online marketing developments to improve customer relationships.

2. Literature review

Service quality has been drawn from the expectation rejection theory adopted by early researchers such as Parasuraman *et al.* (1985). The model developed can be used to measure e-service quality because e-commerce customers have similar needs as logistics customers and need to have in-depth knowledge about the quality of ordering, ease of use and accuracy of online results. The physical separation between customers and suppliers can affect the measurements used to evaluate service quality (Bienstock *et al.*, 1996). Later, Zeithaml *et al.* (2000) developed 11 dimensions of the e-service quality model, and then analysts developed various models based on the insight and analysis of customer needs. Rahi and Ghani *et al.* (2018) E-service quality is seen as an interactive area that allows organizations to differentiate their services and create value through the provision of processes. Parasuraman *et al.* (1985) reported that e-service quality is the extent to which a website supports the quality of its business and the delivery of goods and services. Online service quality can also be defined as the user's evaluation of its success and the evaluation of the quality of virtual spaces through online services.

2.1 Online banking service quality

Online banking services are referred to providing various electronic network to carry out bank transactions such as Online, mobile, television and telephone (Lustsik, 2004). Nowadays, the demand and desires of customers for banking services are increasing, and they want to make use of them anywhere, at any time, without any cost-effective time or place constraints (Hammoud *et al.*, 2018), which resulted in marking Finland as the leader in electronic banking, way before it was used in any other country (Sharma, 2011). Nowadays, this mode of banking is widely disseminated among consumers owing to the enhancement in Online facilities and through the competition among banks. (Mahdi *et al.*, 2010). According to Ranganathan and Ganapathy (2002), banks who tend to deliver higher quality to their customers achieve competitive distinction. Owing to its virtual attributes, Online banking entices customers by the quality of services they provide (Liao and Cheung, 2008). Service quality provided can only be improved when it is measurable. Parasuraman *et al.* (1985) suggest that effective measurement of service quality can be very useful in the allocation of resources and in the segmentation of customers is well documented. Additionally, Black *et al.* (2014) explain that relationship between service quality and customer satisfaction is tougher for those that are less strictly complex of services. In this condition, customers who have data technology skills can easily use the Online banking service, and they will have higher- satisfaction levels than others (Herington and Weaven, 2009; Ho *et al.*, 2012).

2.1.1 Website quality

Yang *et al.* (2004) proposed that website aesthetics, colors, sections and images can improve electronic banking quality and enhance the overall experience and satisfaction of users. The website quality can include web designing, proper and well detailed service description. According to Chemengui and Hajer (2013) this is an essential feature which must be monitored by the banks. Flinders (2016) stated that one bank recently encountered customer dissatisfaction due to technical faults in banking website. Study also considered the significance of website quality in their research and further argued that it must be considered as a vital factor to enhance computerized banking quality in Australia and to attract customers to this field. Study also adopted website quality as an important determinant of their study and further stated that it contributes towards improved contentment and faithfulness of users.

H1: Website quality influence customer satisfaction.

2.1.2 Responsiveness

Responsiveness is also a major variable which can be used to evaluate service quality of banks. According to Sheng and Liu (2010) responsiveness refer to the promptness of reply provided by operators of cyber-banking

to users of the service. According to Ali and Raza (2017) responsiveness can retain the interest of users and prompt response can help in enhancing user satisfaction and faithfulness. Chen (2013) users are most likely to retain when their complaints are answered and demands are met timely. Suleman *et al.* (2012) conducted research while considering responsiveness as a significant determinant of digital banking quality to find its impact over user satisfaction. Suleman *et al.* (2012) further stated that responsiveness ensure that prompt services are delivered to users and increases satisfaction. According to Hammoud *et al.* (2018) responsiveness can be categorized into four steps. First, Online banking system can regulate and function the service appropriately; second, Online banking network can properly guide customers towards proceeding if any failure occurs; third, it can provide a quick way out to handle any error in Online banking transactions; and fourth giving quick response any customers' query.

H2: Responsiveness significantly influence customer satisfaction.

2.1.3 Reliability

Reliability is the capability to complete an agreed task unfailingly and correctly. According to Singh and Kaur (2013) the banks are known for their reliability and consistency in performing the banking tasks, however, it is important to portray this dependability through web-based services as well. Further study stated in his work that reliability over the online task can increase the user involvement in the service and compel the user to avail the service again. Online banking services are referred to providing various electronic network to carry out bank transactions such as Online, mobile, television and telephone (Lustsik, 2004). Nowadays, the demand and desires of customers for banking services are increasing, and they want to make use of them anywhere, at any time, without any cost-effective time or place constraints (Hammoud *et al.*, 2018), which resulted in marking Finland as the leader in electronic banking, way before it was used in any other country (Sharma, 2011). Nowadays, this mode of banking is widely disseminated among consumers owing to the enhancement in Online facilities and through the competition among banks. (Mahdi *et al.*, 2010). Parasuraman *et al.* (1985) suggest that effective measurement of service quality can be very useful in the allocation of resources and in the segmentation of customers is well documented.

H3: Reliability significantly influence customer satisfaction.

2.1.4 User Friendly

Wu and Chang (2013) believe that user friendliness (USFR) is important because most users are adults, so ease of use should be ensured. Acohido (2009) stated that Amazon offers user-friendly add-ons for disabled or physically challenged users in its online e-books, which increases user satisfaction. Such strategies not only benefit customers, but also help gain competitive advantage. It was also announced by ANZ that the new USB is guaranteed to make online banking more accessible. According to Mahadeen *et al.* (2020); Mahapatre and Khan (2009) Many bank customers in India are dissatisfied due to lack of ease of use. Therefore, it stands out that this has an impact on user satisfaction. Therefore, it has been considered as an important variable in this study and user convenience and customer satisfaction are closely related in the banking sector.

H4: User friendly significantly influence customer satisfaction.

2.1.5 Personal Needs

Banks should take into account the personal needs of users. Having sufficient data on users' personal needs can help online banks offer new features that will increase user satisfaction. According to Keska *et al.* (2020), it helps banks to understand the age, gender, lifestyle and preferences of Internet users. Therefore, in order to make requests and meet the user's needs correctly, the user's personal needs can be determined (Hamadi, 2010). Maslow's hierarchy also expresses different basic human needs. Some of the needs that can be meaningful in digital marketing include security, participation, and preferences. According to Amin (2016), personal needs are closely related to users and therefore are considered as important variables in this research. Thus, superior quality that fulfill customers personnel need of service improves the degree of user satisfaction.

H5: Personal needs significantly influence customer satisfaction.

2.1.6 Convenience

Convenience is also important in maintaining customer trust and increasing user satisfaction. Customers do their business through online commerce as they wish and convenience means that transactions are completed at the highest level. According to Kheng *et al.* (2010), users will be more satisfied and loyal to online banking services when their greatest needs are met. User needs and responses should be successfully processed through the bank's website. Valid responses do not only include the fax or email address of the financial institution, but also the validity of the website was found in this study. Website convenience in digital banking refers to the percentage of concluding banking transactions over terminated banking transactions. The users tend to be more loyal and satisfied when their transactions are completed every time with convenience. If the user enjoys Online banking, the level of customer service is immediately lifted to their level.

H6: Convenience significantly influence customer satisfaction.

2.1.7 Customer satisfaction

According to Ranchi and Khudjanov (2011) customer satisfaction is conceptualized as an emotional evaluation

and is often used over time. User satisfaction is assessed as the extent to which users believe that the maintenance or use of the facility leads to positive emotions (Rust and Oliver, 1994). According to Cheng and Chan (2009), e-services can be divided into two types; one can be called specific changes, satisfaction can be seen as an emotional response to the performance of specific services, while satisfaction is dependent on the performance are called overall satisfaction (Shankar et al., 2003). Researchers (Taylor and Cronin, 1994; Parasuraman et al., 1985) consider overall satisfaction as part of the service recommendation because it is related to the impact of users on the work of organizations, affecting the quality of service. Satisfaction is also defined as an analysis of the user's emotional state, which is created by associating negative emotions with the user's initial thoughts about their experiences (Oliver, 1980). In other words, satisfaction is the feeling of satisfaction or dissatisfaction that a person gets by comparing the performance of the product with his/her needs. In the context of internet banking service quality, online satisfaction is the extent to which users are satisfied with their past transactions.

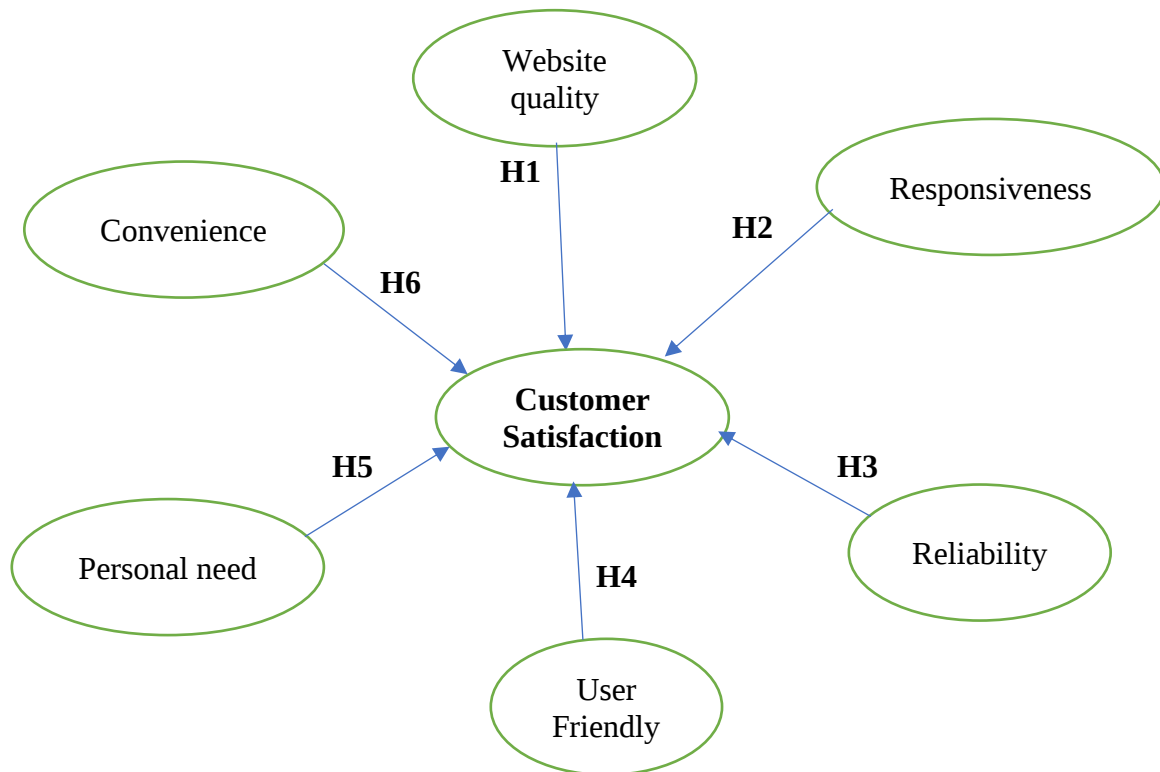


Figure 1: Proposed Framework

3. Research methodology

3.1 Measurement instrument

The research instrument was first validated by academic experts and then tested to add value to the survey. The sample of this study mainly includes 285 bank customers who have experience in online commerce and electronic services. Some of the participants met certain standards and were therefore asked to contribute to the study via e-mail. The survey instrument was developed using a five-point Likert type scale divided from disagree (1) to agree (5). The components are website quality, responsiveness, reliability, user's friendliness, personal needs and convenience affecting customer satisfaction. In addition, information and examples such as age, gender, education, occupation, yearly income, using convenience sampling methods. In other words, we benefited from the convenience since we collected information from users who were available at that moment and could easily access this information. Therefore, initially 652 participants were targeted via online survey using email, but after removing missing responses, the data was reduced to 285 participants.

Table 1: Demographic details

Demographics	Frequency	%
Age		
21–30	78	27
31–40	116	41
41–50	49	17
Above 50	42	15
Gender	285	
Male	158	55
Female	127	45
Education level		
Under Graduate	55	19
Graduate	128	45
Post Graduate	102	36
Occupation		
Private Organisation	126	44
Public Organisation	65	23
Business	45	16
Students	49	17
How many bank accounts do you have?		
One	102	36
Two	151	53
more than two	32	11
How Long Have You Been Using Online Banking?		
Daily	27	9
Weekly	98	34
Monthly	115	40
Yearly	45	16

4. Data analysis and results

This research utilizes SEM as a part of Smart PLS 3.2. (Sarstedt *et al.*, 2014), by utilizing a bootstrap resampling methodology of 5,000 (Hair *et al.*, 2011). This technique is used to evaluate both the estimation and structural model. Analysts (Hair *et al.*, 2011; Henseler *et al.*, 2014) suggest that, PLS-SEM is very rational and effective to use for breaking down complex models. Moreover, the incorporation of two developmentally measured constructs of the research model makes the utilization of PLS, i.e. Partial least squares, in the light of the fact that it can give assessments to the model, rather than SEM, structural equation models which are unable to assess complex models (Hair *et al.*, 2011; Hair *et al.*, 2012). PLS, introduced by Joreskog and Wold (1979), is capable of explaining the connection between dormant variables. A latent variable is an unnoticed variable which is connected with the other identifiable factors. Hence, this technique has the ability to function with the unnoticed factors and to determine the measurement error in the improvement of such unnoticed variables (Chin, 1998). The assessment of single item reliability is done by evaluating simple correlation (standardized loadings). According to Tabachnick and Fidell (2007), items are considered to be reliable when their value is above 0.55 and according to Table 2, all the items are regarded as reliable. Furthermore, convergent validity is determined by using two methods given by (Fornell and Larcker, 1981) Cronbach's alpha and Composite reliability, Average variance extracted (AVE).

4.1 Reliability and validity analysis

To ascertain discriminant validity, cross-loadings, square root of the average variance extracted and heterotrait-monotrait ratio of correlations (HTMT) is analyzed. The matrix of correlation in Table 3 demonstrates that for every pair of constructs, the correlation among latent variables is lower than the square root of the average variance extracted (AVE) of every construct. Hence, the results follow the criterion given by Fornell and Larcker (1981). Furthermore, Table 4 shows cross loadings of each item and it demonstrates that all the loadings are higher on their particular constructs comparing to their corresponding constructs and the differences between cross loadings is higher than the recommended standard limits 0.1 (Gefen and Straub, 2005; Raza *et al.*, 2018).

The heterotrait-monotrait proportion of correlations (HTMT), represented in Table 4, shows that all of the construct values are above the standard of 0.85 suggested by Henseler *et al.* (2015). Hence, discriminant validity is confirmed as all three criteria are met. The explanatory power of the model is evaluated by estimating the extent of inconsistency in dependent variable.

Table 2: Reliability and validity

Constructs	Items	Loadings	Cronbach's α	Composite reliability	AVE
WQ	WQ1	0.769	0.733	0.882	0.79
	WQ2	0.855			
RES	RES1	0.849	0.762	0.863	0.678
	RES2	0.813			
	RES3	0.781			
REL	REL1	0.832	0.838	0.892	0.675
	REL2	0.839			
	REL3	0.849			
	REL4	0.813			
USF	USE1	0.781	0.842	0.888	0.617
	USE2	0.832			
	USE3	0.839			
	USE4	0.639			
	USE5	0.909			
PER	PER1	0.905	0.88	0.926	0.806
	PER2	0.899			
	PER3	0.892			
CON	CON1	0.904	0.88	0.926	0.806
	CON2	0.892			
	CON3	0.863			
CUS	CUS1	0.885	0.853	0.911	0.773
	CUS2	0.863			
	CUS3	0.885			

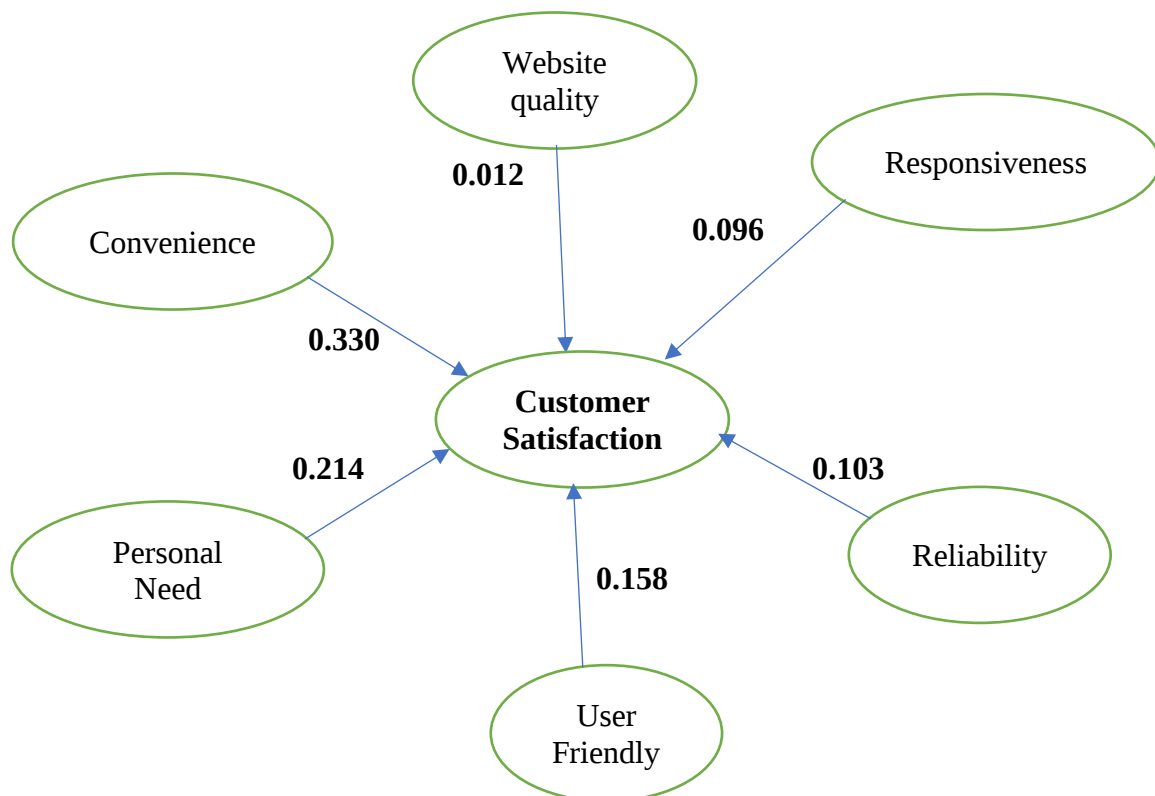
Table 3: Correlation matrix

	WQ	RES	REL	USF	PER	CON	CUS
WQ	1.0						
RES	0.83	1.0					
REL	0.73	0.78	1.0				
USF	0.757	0.764	0.814	1.0			
PER	0.701	0.689	0.699	0.712	1.0		
CON	0.701	0.694	0.723	0.702	0.789	1.0	
CUS	0.641	0.59	0.638	0.624	0.671	0.63	1.0

By referring to Table 2, it can be realized that all the variables are reliable as they meet the criteria of both Cronbach's alpha, given by Tabachnick and Fidell (2007), and Composite reliability, set by Nunnally *et al.* (1967). According to these criteria, the Cronbach's alpha should exceed 0.70 the value of Composite reliability should exceed 0.70. The determination of convergent validity is set up for a construct if the (AVE) i.e. The average variance extracted is above 0.5 (Fornell and Larcker, 1981) and all the constructs meet this standard, which is acceptable, as seen in Table 2.

4.2 Path Analysis

The Path analysis is shown in Table 4, in which the correlation of each path with the hypothesis is displayed. The coefficient values display the degree to which independent variables effect dependent variables while their sign, size and significance determine the hypotheses between these variables. Furthermore, the significance of hypotheses is determined by the p-values should not be greater than 0.1, in case of this study. Hence, Table 4 suggest that all the hypotheses are accepted with all the coefficients being positive.

**Figure 2:** Hypothetical Model**Table 4:** Hypotheses

Hypotheses	Regression path	Effect type	SRW	Remarks
H1	WQ → CUS	Direct effect	0.012**	Supported
H2	RES → CUS	Direct effect	0.096*	Supported
H3	REL → CUS	Direct effect	0.109*	Supported
H4	USF → CUS	Direct effect	0.158**	Supported
H5	PER → CUS	Direct effect	0.214***	Supported
H6	CON → ECS	Direct effect	0.330***	Supported

5. Discussion & Conclusion

The results presented above imply that every hypothesis is validated because they are all important. Customer satisfaction (CUS) and website quality (WQ) have a positive and substantial association, as indicated by H1 (β 0.012, $p < 0.05$). This outcome is in line with another research (Amin, 2016; Jiang et al., 2016). Quality of the website is the first BSQ to draw in clients; therefore, the more appealing and well-structured a website is, the easier it will be for people to use and the more delighted they will be.

H2 (β 0.096, $p < 0.1$) indicates a positive and substantial association between responsiveness and customer satisfaction, which is why it is accepted. These findings are comparable to those of Amin (2016) and Hammoud et al. (2018). Banks typically respond well to their clients and offer services based on client pleasure. Customer satisfaction rises in proportion to the degree to which online banking upholds the responsiveness criteria by providing prompt, positive answers to users' questions.

The hypothesis is accepted since the H3 (β 0.109, $p < 0.1$), which shows the association between customer satisfaction and reliability, is positive and significant. These results are consistent with research by Tan and Teo (2000), Kettinger and Lee (2005), and Hammoud et al. (2018). This result suggests that online banking can increase customer satisfaction by upholding reliability because the more accurate and trustworthy the information, the more satisfied customers are with the service.

The hypothesis is accepted because H4 (β 0.158, $p < 0.05$) indicates a positive and substantial relationship between user friendliness and customer satisfaction. These results are comparable to those of Amin (2016). According to the statistics, clients are satisfied when they can readily and conveniently access online banking through a user-friendly website. The same findings are presented in another study by Mahadin et al. (2020), except this one was carried out for a tourism website. Nonetheless, it is evident that customers value user-friendliness in every way.

H5 (β 0.214, $p < 0.01$) shows a positive and substantial relationship between customer satisfaction and personal

needs, suggesting that when a bank meets the needs of its clients and offers them services that meet their needs, clients are satisfied with the services. These findings align with research conducted by Amin (2016) and Keskar et al. (2020). The findings are same, but if we compare the two studies, we find that they were carried out in different settings yet still show the same outcomes.

Lastly, the hypothesis is accepted since H_6 (β 0.330, $p < 0.01$) demonstrates a positive and substantial relationship between convenience and consumer satisfaction. These findings are consistent with those of Herington and Weaven (2009), Sohail and Shaikh (2008), and Hammoud et al. (2018), who claimed that website convenience is the primary determinant of online banking service quality, e-customers will be more satisfied with a website that facilitates their interactions with the bank.

Customers in the Bhopal region prefer online banking and e-service markets, according to the study's findings, which are based on how interactive a website is. Since it has formed the foundation for how consumers perceive online banking and, ultimately, how they interact and behave with online services, service quality is crucial in all cultures. Managers and e-retailers who wish to take advantage of the e-retailing business may find this study helpful. Since the banking industry's drivers of online banking service quality are deemed crucial, banks should address all four factors in order to maintain a high standard of service quality. The study's conclusions indicate that BSQ's key attributes include convenience, website quality, accountability, dependability, user friendliness, and personal need. This demonstrates that consumers are more drawn to banks that provide quick transactions through conveniently accessible web platforms.

On the other hand, consumers place greater emphasis on the website's functionality when connecting with these financial institutions; therefore, banks should strategically focus on raising customer knowledge of the use of new technology (online banking system). Banks will be able to gain a competitive advantage in this way. Customers also want their transactions to be accurate, timely, and quick when they use online banking, and the bank's high-quality services can increase their satisfaction, value, faith, and obligation. As a result, online banking should take steps to meet these demands. It is advised that banks provide their clients with an efficient website in a suitable environment with the latest technical advancements to provide top-notch service. Furthermore, in order to understand the shifting facets of virtual consumers' behavior, more focus is given on the psychological (services, information, and attitudes) and physical (system, functions, and interface) elements. Given the abundance of banking portals available to consumers nowadays, which may cause them to transfer to other banks, banks' websites ought to concentrate more on enhancing their usability and performance as well as making their online portals visually appealing.

6. Research Implications

Since convenience is the best indicator of electronic customer contentment and satisfied customers eventually increase trust, it is advised that banks in the Bhopal region increase their investments in this area. Additionally, in order to foster a good relationship between electronic consumer happiness and satisfaction, online banking should prioritize the demands and contentment of its clients in order to increase their satisfaction to the service. Furthermore, because of the intense competition, their online banking system should be built with quick turnaround times for consumer inquiries and problems in order to draw in and keep bank customers. It is advised that the services be dependable and secure, and that the app be easy to use and intuitive. Customers in the Bhopal region is hesitant to readily trust internet services, however it has been shown that they are more likely to adopt such technology when they sense quality considerations. Furthermore, human wants are a powerful influencer, therefore higher authorities and banks in the Bhopal region should give careful consideration to what clients want and how they may get it. clients desire speedy services; thus, online services should be designed to meet the needs of all kinds of clients.

7. Limitation and future research direction

This research has certain limitations even if it offers valuable information. First, only similar lives and roughly similar preferences are shown in the data gathered from university students. Additionally, a convenience sampling strategy that is fairly similar to a random sample was used to acquire the data. In order to obtain a more comprehensive result, it is recommended that data be gathered from people who live in different parts of the nation or the world for future studies. It is advised to include additional variables, such as product attributes or incentives, as this study only considers a second-order element and may be overlooking certain other factors that could affect customer satisfaction. Prospective researchers might also look at specific categories of online services, including the quantity of sales or the kind of goods bought. Additionally, it suggests that future studies concentrate on additional background information such as technological speed, interface quality, perceived utility, compatibility, and their relationship to customers and decision to use. Adopting online banking and establishing trust are also crucial, as is exposing wireless networks. In order to satisfy the rising demand, banks are projected to boost their spending on online banking technology. Additionally, research is needed to examine human values in the era of electronic banking systems.

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