



A Study on Consumer Perception towards Purchase of Perfumes in The Market.

Surendher R¹, Nanditha V², Parthiban J³

¹Assistant Professor MBA, Jerusalem College of Engineering, Chennai.

²MBA Student, Jerusalem College of Engineering, Chennai.

³MBA Student, Jerusalem College of Engineering, Chennai.

ABSTRACT

This study explores consumer perception in the fragrance industry, focusing on the key factors influencing perfume purchasing behavior. With the fragrance market growing dynamically, driven by social trends, brand reputation, and shifting consumer values, understanding these influences is essential. The research identifies younger consumers' preferences for floral and fresh scents, with brand reputation and emotional connections playing significant roles in purchase decisions. It highlights the increasing importance of sustainability, as many consumers are willing to pay a premium for eco-friendly options. Promotional activities, especially those involving social media and influencer marketing, prove effective in engaging this demographic. The study suggests that brands emphasizing personalization, authenticity, and ethical considerations are better positioned to resonate with modern consumers, fostering loyalty and long-term success. Findings support a comprehensive approach, including digital engagement, personalized services, and sustainable practices, to align with evolving consumer expectations and enhance brand competitiveness in a crowded market.

INTRODUCTION

The fragrance industry has transformed into a multi-billion-dollar market, reflecting diverse consumer preferences and cultural trends. Perfumes, once luxury items, are now widely accessible, prompting a complex interplay of rational and emotional factors in purchase decisions. Consumers often seek fragrances that evoke memories, convey status, or enhance self-confidence, making understanding their perceptions crucial. Companies craft compelling narratives and invest in appealing packaging to shape these perceptions, while price sensitivity influences choices between premium and affordable brands. Additionally, cultural influences affect preferences for fragrance notes and marketing messages, highlighting the need for marketers to navigate these dynamics to enhance consumer satisfaction and strategy effectiveness.

IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING CONSUMER PERCEPTION IN THE FRAGRANCE INDUSTRY

1. Guiding Marketing Strategies

Targeted Campaigns: Enables focused marketing that resonates with specific demographics.

Brand Positioning: Helps brands distinguish themselves in a competitive market.

2. Enhancing Product Development

Tailored Products: Allows for the creation of fragrances that meet consumer expectations.

Innovation: Inspires new fragrance lines based on consumer trends.

3. Improving Customer Experience

Personalization: Enhances satisfaction and loyalty through personalized experiences.

In-Store Experience: Informs better product layout and sampling strategies.

4. Building Brand Loyalty

Emotional Connection: Fosters deeper consumer connections, leading to loyalty.

Trust and Reputation: Positive perceptions enhance brand reputation.

5. Competitive Advantage

Market Differentiation: Enables brands to stand out in a crowded landscape.

Adapting to Trends: Helps brands respond quickly to market shifts.

6. Enhancing Communication

Effective Messaging: Crafts messaging that resonates with target audiences.

Feedback Mechanism: Guides brands in improving based on consumer feedback.

7. Increasing Sales and Market Share

Informed Decisions: Aligning products with preferences boosts sales.

Cross-Selling Opportunities: Identifies potential within product lines.

8. Addressing Consumer Needs

Meeting Expectations: Helps brands adapt to evolving consumer needs.

Cultural Sensitivity: Ensures appeal to diverse demographics.

9. Long-term Sustainability

Building Relationships: Fosters enduring connections for brand sustainability.

Adaptation to Change: Prepares brands to navigate market challenges.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:

To study consumer perception towards perfume purchases.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES:

To analyze factors influencing preferences for different fragrance notes and purchasing behavior.

To evaluate the impact of promotional activities and brand reputation on purchasing decisions.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

- The evolving perfume industry requires brands to understand consumer perceptions.
- Informed consumers, influenced by social media, demand adaptive strategies and emotional connections in branding.
- Insights into loyalty and price sensitivity enable better marketing decisions.
- Understanding diverse preferences allows for tailored products that meet consumer needs.
- Ultimately, this study will help brands enhance customer satisfaction and maintain competitiveness.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on consumer perception regarding perfume purchases, examining factors influencing preferences and behavior, including fragrance notes, price sensitivity, brand reputation, promotional activities, and cultural influences. It aims to uncover how emotional and rational considerations impact decision-making, providing insights for marketing strategies, product development, and customer experience in the fragrance industry.

Additionally, the study explores social and cultural trends, analyzing demographic responses to marketing messages and scent profiles. It also considers the effects of social media, e-commerce, and sustainability on consumer behavior, offering practical recommendations for marketers and brand managers to enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has several limitations. Geographic constraints may limit its ability to capture the full diversity of global fragrance preferences. Consumer responses may be biased due to the subjective nature of fragrance choices, influenced by personal experiences and external factors.

Resource limitations might restrict the sample size and depth of analysis, making findings less generalizable. Additionally, the study may not fully address rapidly changing trends in the fragrance industry, such as the rise of niche brands and the focus on sustainability.

Finally, while the study analyzes various influencing factors, it may not explore all variables comprehensively, such as in-store experiences or online reviews, indicating areas for future research.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Thompson et al. (2011)

Perfumes possess a unique ability to evoke memories and emotions. Research suggests that consumers often choose fragrances based on personal experiences or nostalgic associations, which adds complexity to purchasing decisions. This emotional connection can foster loyalty, as specific scents may be associated with positive memories or significant life events.

Cialdini (2009)

Social dynamics play a significant role in shaping consumer perceptions. Recommendations from friends and family, as well as social media influencers, greatly influence fragrance choices. Understanding social influence is crucial for brands aiming to leverage word-of-mouth marketing and social proof to boost brand appeal.

Hennion (2007)

Cultural background significantly affects fragrance preferences, as various societies have distinct associations with particular scents. For instance, floral fragrances might be more popular in some cultures, while spicier or woodier scents are preferred in others. This research emphasizes the need for brands to understand cultural nuances when entering new markets.

Keller & Berry (2003)

Advertising and promotional strategies impact consumer perception significantly. Research shows that effective brand messaging creates emotional connections, leading to increased loyalty and repeat purchases. The use of celebrity endorsements and influencer marketing in the perfume industry enhances brand visibility and desirability.

Bloch et al. (2003)

Packaging design can influence consumer perceptions of product quality and value. Consumers often form initial judgments based on visual appeal before sampling the fragrance, underscoring the importance of packaging in driving purchase decisions.

O'Cass and Lim (2002)

Brand equity is crucial in consumer choice, with strong brands fostering loyalty and trust. Brand familiarity enhances consumer confidence during purchase decisions, making brand equity a vital component of marketing strategy.

Sweeney and Soutar (2001)

Recent trends show a growing consumer awareness of sustainability and ethical sourcing. Research indicates that consumers increasingly consider the environmental and ethical implications of their purchases. Brands emphasizing sustainable practices and transparent sourcing can resonate with socially conscious consumers in the fragrance market.

Vigneron and Johnson (1999)

Price perception plays a key role in purchasing decisions, particularly in the luxury goods market like perfumes. Consumers often equate higher prices with superior quality. However, recent trends show that younger consumers are more price-sensitive, seeking affordable options without compromising quality. This shift requires brands to adopt nuanced pricing strategies to attract diverse segments.

Aaker (1996)

The emotional connection created by effective brand messaging can significantly enhance brand loyalty. Research shows that brands with strong emotional appeal are more likely to enjoy repeat purchases. This finding emphasizes the importance of marketing strategies that build strong emotional ties with consumers.

Keller (1993)

Brand reputation greatly influences consumer choice. Strong brands evoke positive associations and trust, which are crucial in the fragrance industry. Packaging design and visual appeal also impact consumer perceptions of quality and value.

Fishbein & Ajzen (1975)

The Theory of Planned Behavior posits that attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control influence purchasing decisions. In the fragrance market, consumers often choose perfumes that align with their self-image and social identity, highlighting the significance of emotional and psychological factors in consumer behavior.

Maslow (1943)

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs suggests that consumer motivations often go beyond basic needs. Perfumes fulfill higher-level needs related to self-esteem and self-actualization, as they allow consumers to express their identity and social aspirations.

Kotler (1973)

The shopping environment plays a vital role in shaping consumer perceptions. Sensory elements such as scent, lighting, and layout can enhance the shopping experience. While in-store experiences allow for direct fragrance testing, the rise of e-commerce has transformed consumer discovery, making online reviews and recommendations critical in shaping perceptions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN:

Descriptive research to gather insights into consumer behaviors and preferences.

SOURCES OF DATA

PRIMARY DATA

Surveys: A structured questionnaire will be distributed to gather quantitative data from consumers.

Focus Groups: Conduct discussions with diverse groups to explore perceptions and attitudes towards perfumes in-depth.

SECONDARY DATA

Literature Review: Analyze existing research and studies related to consumer behavior, branding, and the perfume industry.

SAMPLE SIZE

There are 120 responses in the sample. The sample is dispersed around the Chennai city.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Convenience sampling for the survey, targeting individuals in shopping malls, online platforms, and fragrance stores.

Purposive sampling for focus groups, selecting participants based on specific criteria (e.g., frequent buyers, brand loyalists).

PERIOD OF STUDY

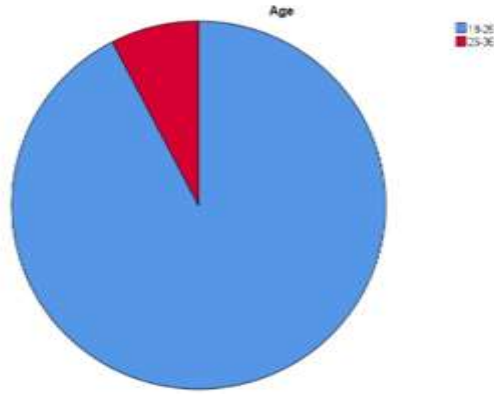
The study was carried out over the course of 3 month, from June 2024 to end of August 2024.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTREPRETATION

AGE WISE CALCULATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Frequency analysis of age

Age		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-25	109	92.4	92.4	92.4
	26-35	9	7.6	7.6	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	



INTERPRETATION:

Age group 18-25: 109 respondents, accounting for 92.4% of the total.

Age group 26-35: 9 respondents, making up 7.6% of the total.

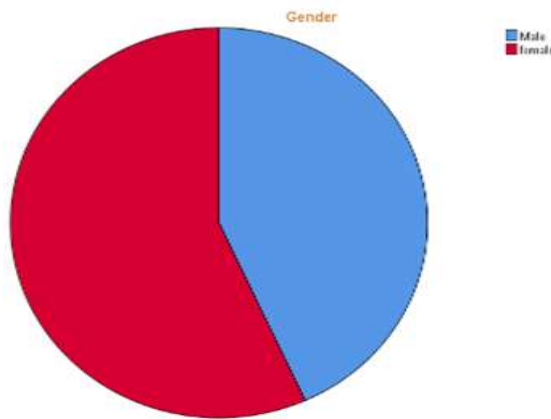
Age group 36-50: 0 respondents, making up 0% of the total.

GENDER PROFILE

Gender wise calculation of the respondents

Frequency analysis of gender:

Gender		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	51	43.2	43.2	43.2
	Female	67	56.8	56.8	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	



INTERPRETATION

Male: 51 respondents, accounting for 43.2% of the total.

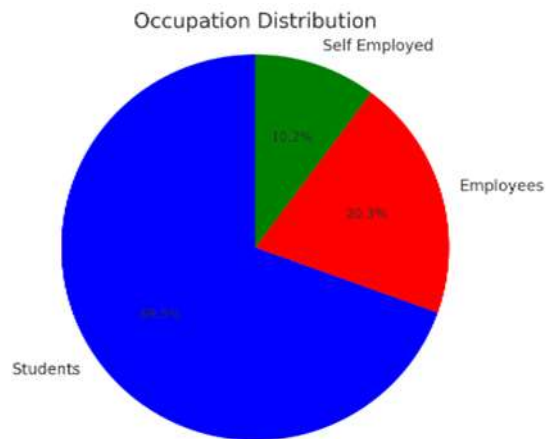
Female: 67 respondents, making up 56.8% of the total.

INCOME PROFILE

Frequency analysis of income

Income		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	78	66.1	66.1	66.1

	2	4	3.4	3.4	69.5
	3	21	17.8	17.8	87.3
	4	9	7.6	7.6	94.9
	5	6	5.1	5.1	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	



INTERPRETATION

No income: 78 respondents, accounting for 66.1% of the total.

Below 10000: 4 respondents, making up 3.4% of the total.

10000 to 25000: 21 respondents, constituting 17.8% of the total.

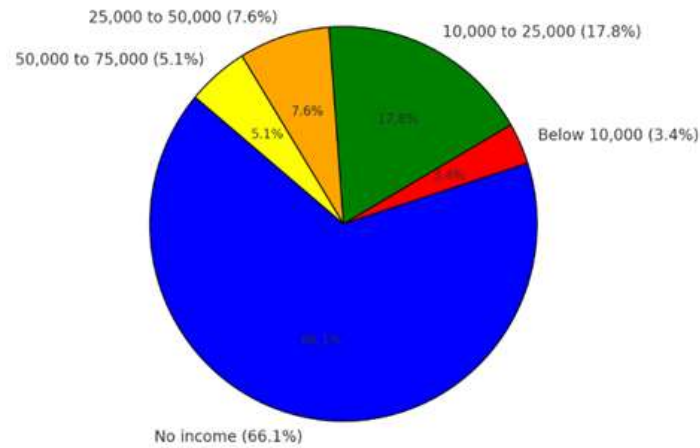
25000 to 50000: 9 respondents, representing 7.6% of the total.

50000 to 75000: 6 respondents, which is 5.1% of the total.

Above 75000: 0 respondents, making up 0% of the total.

PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS FOR OCCUPATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Occupation		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	82	69.5	69.5	69.5
	2	24	20.3	20.3	89.8
	3	12	10.2	10.2	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	



INTERPRETATION:

Student: 82 respondents, accounting for 69.5% of the total.

Employee: 24 respondents, making up 20.3% of the total.

Self Employed: 12 respondents, constituting 10.2% of the total.

STATISTIC ANALYSIS

ANOVA TEST: the ANOVA (analysis of variables) test provided examines whether there is a significant relationship between online platforms and the frequency of purchase.

Null hypothesis (Ho): there is no significant relationship between promotional activities and the age group.

ANOVA					
Promotional activities					
	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Between groups	.621	1	.621	.378	.540
Within groups	159.399	97	1.643		
Total	160.020	98			

ANOVA is used to determine if there are statistically significant differences between the means of different groups concerning promotional activities.

The **F-value of 0.378** indicates a low ratio of variance between the groups compared to the variance within the groups. This suggests that the differences in group means are minimal.

The **p-value (0.540)** is much higher than the typical significance level of 0.05. This implies that the differences observed among the groups are not statistically significant.

Conclusion:

The ANOVA results indicate that there is **no significant difference** in promotional activities among the groups studied, suggesting a uniform effect of these activities across different segments. This understanding can guide future marketing strategies and research directions to better tailor promotional efforts.

CHI-SQUARE: whether there is a significant association between two categorical variables.

Hypothesis:

Null hypothesis (Ho): **There is no association** between the two categorical variables.

Alternative hypothesis (H1): **There is an association** between the two categorical variables.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.734 ^a	2	.057
Likelihood Ratio	5.986	2	.050
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.856	1	.091
N of Valid Cases	118		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.19.

Key values:

Value: 5.734

Degrees of Freedom (df): 2

Asymptotic Significance (2-sided): 0.057

Interpretation: The Pearson Chi-Square value of 5.734 with 2 degrees of freedom yields a p-value of 0.057. This indicates a borderline significance. While this p-value is slightly above the conventional threshold of **0.05**, it suggests that there might be a potential association between the variables being tested, indicating that further investigation could be warranted.

Conclusion: The Chi-Square test suggests there may be a relationship between the variables analyzed, but it is not definitively established. The borderline significance of the results implies that further research or a larger sample size could help clarify the relationship and provide more definitive conclusions. The results highlight the importance of exploring these associations further to understand their practical implications better.

FINDINGS

The study revealed that younger consumers (ages 18-35) predominantly prefer floral and fresh fragrance notes, often purchasing 3-5 perfumes. Brand reputation significantly influences buying decisions, with many valuing qualities associated with well-known brands. Free samples and discounts were the most effective promotional strategies, while social media ads and influencer endorsements were preferred over traditional advertising. Sustainability emerged as an important factor, with many willing to pay more for eco-friendly brands. Overall, consumers exhibit a strong emotional connection to fragrances, seeking products that reflect their individuality and values. Emotional connections to fragrances were highlighted, as many linked scents to personal memories and experiences. This indicates a growing trend towards personalization and authenticity in fragrance choices. Ultimately, brands that embrace these insights and align with consumer values are likely to succeed in the competitive market.

SUGGESTIONS:

Brands should enhance scent diversity by offering a broader range of fragrance notes, especially floral and fresh options, to cater to younger consumers seeking uniqueness. Focusing on brand storytelling can strengthen consumer trust; highlighting heritage, quality, and craftsmanship in marketing efforts is essential. Investing in digital marketing and collaborating with influencers will effectively reach younger audiences, with an emphasis on user-generated content to enhance authenticity. Adopting sustainable practices and transparently communicating these efforts can attract consumers willing to pay more for eco-friendly products. Enticing promotions, like free samples and discounts, should be offered for new launches to encourage trial. Additionally, brands could consider personalized fragrance services, such as custom blending or scent consultations, to appeal to consumers looking for unique products that reflect their identity. Creating marketing campaigns that evoke emotions and memories associated with scents can reinforce the personal connections consumers have with fragrances. Lastly, enhancing the in-store testing experience with knowledgeable staff, interactive displays, and scent discovery events will engage consumers more deeply. By implementing these strategies, brands can better align with consumer preferences and values, driving sales and fostering loyalty.

CONCLUSION:

The study on consumer perception towards perfume purchases highlights the importance of understanding the evolving preferences and values of today's consumers. Younger buyers show a strong preference for floral and fresh scents, influenced heavily by brand reputation and emotional connections to fragrances. The findings indicate a significant shift towards sustainability, with many willing to pay a premium for eco-friendly options. Additionally, effective promotional strategies, particularly through social media and influencer marketing, are crucial for engaging this demographic. Brands that prioritize personalization and create authentic narratives around their products are likely to resonate more deeply with consumers. By focusing on these insights, fragrance companies can better meet the needs and desires of their target audience, ultimately enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty in a competitive market. Embracing these trends will not only drive sales but also foster lasting relationships with consumers who value both quality and ethical considerations.

THE ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT:

The analysis indicates that younger consumers, particularly those aged 18-35, are significantly shaping the fragrance market with their preferences for floral and fresh scents. Brand reputation plays a critical role in their purchasing decisions, as consumers often associate established brands with higher quality. Additionally, there is a clear trend toward sustainability, with many respondents willing to pay more for eco-friendly products.

Promotional strategies that include free samples and discounts are highly effective in encouraging trial purchases, while social media and influencer marketing are pivotal in reaching this demographic. Emotional connections to fragrances are strong, suggesting that brands that create meaningful narratives around their products can foster deeper consumer loyalty. Overall, the findings underscore the need for fragrance brands to adapt their marketing strategies and product offerings to align with the values and preferences of modern consumers.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

1. Expand fragrance lines to include a wider variety of scents, particularly floral and fresh options.
2. Enhance sustainability efforts through eco-friendly sourcing and packaging, and communicate these practices clearly.
3. Leverage personalization by offering custom scent consultations and bespoke blending services.
4. Strengthen online presence with targeted digital marketing and collaborations with influencers.
5. Create interactive in-store experiences, such as scent discovery events, to engage consumers.
6. Utilize emotional marketing to craft campaigns that resonate with personal stories and connections.
7. Incorporate consumer feedback to refine products and ensure alignment with current preferences.
8. Diversify promotional strategies, experimenting with limited-time offers and exclusive releases to drive excitement.

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