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## The Effect of after Sales Service Quality on Customer Satisfaction, and Repurchases Intention: A Case Study of Automobile Service Agent in India

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#### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explore service quality of after-sale service in automobile industry and its effect on customer satisfaction and repurchase intention. The AutoSERVQUAL has been used as a measurement tool through which the data were collected in five dimensions which are reliability, assurance, tangible, empathy, and responsiveness. 384 questionnaires were collected online from the customers of an automobile dealer in the India. This study revealed that reliability, assurance, empathy, and responsiveness are the key sources of customer satisfaction and repurchase intention while tangibility is not significant to the model. The study suggested that customers might spend less time on tangible facilities for after-sales autoservices, therefore, they are less focus on tangible facilities. Hence, the improvement of tangible facilities might not directly improve customer satisfaction and repurchase intention. Most dimensions of service quality of the automobile dealer in India were rated relatively high. Furthermore, the effect of service quality on repurchase intention is stronger than on customer satisfaction. This suggested that high service quality induce customer to revisit the dealer and use the services while not only satisfy with the perceive service quality. Hence, high service quality would extend customer loyalty toward the service.

Keywords: Service Quality, AutoSERVQUAL, Customer Satisfaction, Repurchases Intention.

#### 1. Introduction

According to Nauhria et al. [1], Indian automobile industry has been growing. Indian automobile market has the potential to grow more than 6 million units annually by 2020 and generate revenues of the order \$150-\$200 billion in the next 2 decades. The automobile industry plays a pivotal role in the Indian economy. Miglani [2] discovered that the automobile industry is becoming successful because of good product quality and service which fulfills customer expectations.

Service quality is a very important factor not only automobile industry but also in other industries because service quality leads to customer satisfaction. Measuring and evaluating the quality of service provided by the company while identifying the problem allow the company to plan to solve the problem and improve organization performance. Service quality has two dimensions which is technical and functional quality. Technical quality might consider the effectiveness of car repair while functional quality might include the care and manner of personnel involved in processes of service delivery [3].

According to Jahanshahi et al. [4], satisfaction directly affects positive behavioral intentions. Customer satisfaction influences customer loyalty but customer Satisfaction and loyalty are not surrogates for each other. It is possible for a customer to be loyal without being satisfied. It happened when there are few other choices, and sometimes satisfied customers not loyal because there are many alternatives that are available. Bowen and Chen [5] asserted that when customer satisfaction increased, repurchase intention will be increased. In contrast, when

customer satisfaction decreased, repurchase intention will be decreased. Hence, satisfied customers prone to make more purchase. Therefore, customer satisfaction is the result of a customer's perception of the value received and its effect on repurchase intention.

Repurchase intention is an individual judgment of customer. When perceived product performance fulfill customer expectation, customer would feel satisfied and want to purchase the product again from a certain organization [6].

Limited researches have applied AutoSERVQUAL in the analysis while examine the effect of each dimensions of AutoSERVQUAL on customer satisfaction and repurchase intention. Hence, this research explores the effect of service quality on customer satisfaction and repurchase intention of the selected automobile company in India. This study also indicates the level of service quality, customer satisfaction, and repurchase intention of the company. This study applied AutoSERVQUAL, the measurement of SERVQUAL in automobile industry to investigate the role of service quality.

This study contributes to extend SERVQUAL concept in automobile service. The current study provides empirical evidence of the effect of service quality on customer satisfaction and repurchase intention of the selected automobile company in India. Therefore, this research identifies the way of increasing customer satisfaction and repurchase intention through service quality. This research will help the automobile industry to understand why the customer is getting dissatisfaction as well as the approaches to motivate customers to repurchases the service.

#### 2. Literature Reviews

#### 2.1 Service quality

Parasuraman et al. [7] introduced SERVQUAL, a service quality model to measure the scale of difference between what consumers expectation and their perceptions. According to Dehghan [8], in 1985 Parasuraman, Zeithamal and Berry dentifies ten dimensions regarding service quality which are tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, competence, courtesy, credibility, security, access, communication, and understanding the customer. Later, in 1988, these ten dimensions were further purified and developed into five dimensions i.e., reliability, assurance, tangible, empathy, responsiveness. It is called SERVQUAL. SERVQUAL model is very important for service quality in the automobile industry. AutoSERVQUAL scale was introduced to measure the service quality in automobile after-sales services, AutoSERVQUAL has five dimensions which are similar to the original SERVQUAL scale. However, SERVQUAL scale has 22 items while AutoSERVQUAL has 28 items [9].

#### 2.2 Customer satisfaction

According to Huang [10], disconfirmation of expectation paradigm is a process to explain customer satisfaction and dissatisfaction. First, buyers have a prior expectation. Second, consumption reveals perceive the performance level of the product which is influence by expectations. Third perceived performance may either confirm or disconfirm repurchase expectation. More specifically, customer expectations are confirmed when performance and expectation are matched. Negatively disconfirmed occur when performance is less than the expectation that means performance fails to match expectations. Positively disconfirmed occur when performance is more than the expectation that means performance exceeds expectations.

#### 2.3 Repurchase Intention

Repurchase intention make a long-term relationship between organization and customers, thus

enhance a profit to the organization. Therefore, when customers satisfy with the product, they form a positive relationship between customer and organization, consequently, the customer wants to repurchase the product from a particular organization. According to Miniard and Cohen [11], Fishbein introduced the model for the prediction and explanation of specific behaviors. This model has two major factors which are a personal or attitudinal and social or normative factors, which influences in attempting to explain the formation of behavioral intention. Thus, this would explain how antecedents enhance repurchase intention of automobile service.

#### 2.4 Hypotheses development

After-sales service quality and customer satisfaction are highly related. After-sales Service quality is an important antecedent of customer satisfaction. According to Izogo and Ogba [12], the customer will be satisfied with the service if the customer received the expected service. Therefore, this study proposed.

H1: Service quality has positive impact on customer satisfaction.

According to Samir Roushdy and Ali [13], the study showed that repurchase intention is positively related to customer satisfaction. Prior experience is one kind of judgment of repurchase intention and repurchase intention depends on prior experience and prior satisfaction. Therefore, this study proposed.

H2: Customer satisfaction has positive impact on repurchase intension.

According to Wilson et al. [14], service quality plays a significant role in repurchase intention. When service provider meets customer expectation then the customer feels satisfied and want to purchase a product from certain service providers, similarly, when organization's performance is not matched with customer expectation, as a result, customer switch the service. Therefore, this study proposed.

H3: Service quality has positive impact on repurchase intension.

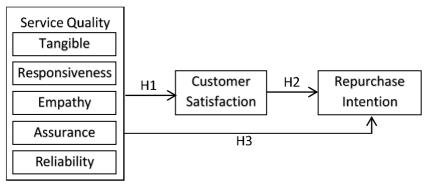


Figure 1: Research model

#### 3. Methodology

This study randomly distributed 1,000 online questionnaires to the customers of the selected automobile company. The study collected the data from 384 respondents who are the customer of a selected automobile company in India. According to Cochran (1963) in determining the sample size of unknown population number, the sample size of 384 with 95% level of precision should be adequate for the analysis. Among the total number of respondents, 58.6% of them are male and 41.4% of respondents are female. Most of respondents (50.5%) are between the ages of 31-45 years. Most of them (55.2%) are the full-time employee and 47.7% of respondents earn INR 50,000-69,999 monthly. Most of respondents (70.8%) have driving experience between 3 to 6 years and 95.3% of respondents have their own vehicle. Most of respondents (60.7%) visit selected automobile service twice a year.

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Table 1: Demographic information

	Characteristics	Frequency
C 1	Female	159
Gender	Male	225
	18-25 Years Old	14
<b>A</b> = =	26-30 Years Old	148
Age	31-45 Years Old	194
	45 Years Above	28
	Graduate	207
	< Undergraduate	8
Education	Postgraduate	15
	Undergraduate	154
	>= 100,000 rs	2
	30,000 - 49,999 rs	132
Income	50,000 - 69,999 rs	183
	70,000 - 99,999 rs	29
	< 30,000 rs	38

#### 3.1 Measurement items

The measurement items of five dimensions of AutoSERVQUAL include 28 items adopted from Gencer and Akkucuk [9]. For reliability, the six measurement items are: 1.) "deliver maintenance/repair service of my car at the time promised"; 2.) "dealer accurately keep maintenance and repair records of my car"; 3.) "dealer accurately detect the car engine failure"; 4.) "dealer use only original spare part not second-hand spare part"; 5.) "dealer offer reliable repairing service", six "dealer securely keep customer personal information".

For assurance, the five measurement items are: 1.) "dealer staffs are knowledgeable"; 2.) "dealer make customer feel safe in transactions (e.g. payment, advance booking for service)"; 3.) "dealer staffs are very polite"; 4.) "dealer provide informative explanations of service", 5.) "dealer offer service with reasonable pricing".

For tangible, the four measurement items are: 1.) "Entry, exit and parking facilities are convenience"; 2.) "dealer take advantage of technology in delivering service"; 3.) "dealer has certificate of quality standards"; 4.) "dealer has visually appealing waiting lounge".

For Empathy, the five measurement items are: 1.) "dealer give individual attention of customer "; 2.) "deliver high service quality"; 3.) "dealer provide convenient payment options"; 4.) "dealer offer gifts and promotions to the customer"; 5.) "dealer understand the needs of the customers".

For Responsiveness, the eight measurement items are: 1.) "dealer tell customers exactly the time of service"; 2.) "dealer staffs are willing to help customers"; 3.) "dealer staffs are not too busy to respond to customers"; 4.) "dealer staffs have the competencies to perform service for customers"; 5.) "dealer provided adequate transportation service (e.g. pickup, drop up, and free rental car)"; 6.) "dealer has qualified labor force"; 7.) "dealer provided equal treatment among different customers"; 8.) "dealer provided attentive service to customer.

For customer satisfaction, the four measurement items were adopted from Pizam and Ellis [15] The items are "I am satisfied on performance of quality and management system", "I get the facility and service, which are Hours of operation, Employee appearance, and the helpful attitude of employees", "I am satisfied with the service experience".

For repurchase intention, the six measurement items were adopted from Dhanabalan et al. [16]. They include, "The service provider delivery within the time", "the service provider service our car as soon as possible and along with low price", "the dealership gives me pick up and drop service", "the dealership is reliable for me because when I need help they give me responded quickly", "I would like to purchase the car from certain company".

#### 3.2 Validity and reliability test

This study found that all domain variables have convergent validity and reliability. The loading value of all variables are above 0.5 which confirms convergent validity as Fornell and Larcker [17] suggested. As shown in table 2, the loadings of reliability (>0.643), assurance (>0.677), tangible (>0.714), empathy (>0.627), responsiveness (>0.654), and customer satisfaction (>0.524) are above 0.5 except, one item of repurchase intention that has loadings of 0.405, nonetheless, this item should be kept in the model for theoretical contribution. In addition, the composite reliability (CR) and Cronbach's alpha have the value exceeded 0.7 reflecting reliability of measurement item as Shrestha [18] suggested. The value of CR of reliability (0.876), assurance (0.855), tangible (0.837), empathy (0.825) responsiveness (0.932), customer satisfaction (0.718), and repurchases intention (0.705) are above 0.7. Consequently, measurement items of all dimensions of service quality, customer satisfaction and Repurchases intentions have validity and reliability.

	Loadings	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	Number of Items
Reliability	0.643 - 0.777	.876	0.876	6
Assurance	0.677 -0.787	.875	0.855	5
Tangible	0.714 - 0.776	.839	0.837	4
Empathy	0.627-0.766	.852	0.825	5
Responsiveness	0.654 -0.839	.931	0.932	8
Customer satisfaction	0.524 - 0.716	.799	0.718	4
Repurchases intention	0.405-0.755	.716	0.705	5

Table 2: Validity and reliability test

### 4. Findings

For hypothesis 1, the linear regression model is statistically significant at 95% confidence level as p-value of the model is less than 0.05. A linear regression indicated that service quality could statistically significantly predict customer satisfaction, (F (5,378) = 75.451, p= 0.000). Assurance has strongest impact on customer satisfaction (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = .313). Followed by reliability (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = .240), empathy (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = .151), and responsiveness (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = .162), respectively. Tangible is not significant (p = .359,  $\beta$  = .069). Adjusted R- Square of the model is .493. Hence, Service quality accounted for 49.3% of the explained variability in customer satisfaction. The effect size is medium level. Hypothesis 1 is supported.

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		andardized efficients	Standardized Coefficients	_	
Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	.750	.153		4.898	.000
Reliability	.215	.062	.240	3.438	.001
Assurance	.257	.059	.313	4.385	.000
Tangible	.057	.062	.069	.917	.359
Empathy	.057	.151	2.176	.030	.030
l responsiveness	.104	.024	.162	4.378	.000

#### Table 3: Coefficient of Hypothesis 1

a. dependent variable: customer satisfaction

This study also confirmed hypothesis 2, the linear regression model is statistically significant at 95% confidence level as p-value of the model is less than 0.05. A linear regression indicated that Customer satisfaction could statistically significantly predict repurchase intension F (1,382) = 272.393, p= 0.000). Customer satisfaction has a positive impact on repurchase intension (p = 0.000,  $\beta$ = .645). Adjusted R- Square of the model is .415. Hence, Customer satisfaction accounted for 41.5% of the explained variability in repurchase intension. The effect size is medium level. Hypothesis 2 is supported.

Table 4: Coefficient of Hypothesis 2

		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	_	
	Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
	(Constant)	1.614	.115		14.085	.000
1	Customer Satisfaction	.541	.033	.645	16.504	.000

a. dependent variable: Repurchase intention

In additional, for hypothesis 3, the linear regression model is statistically significant at 95% confidence level as p-value of the model is less than 0.05. A linear regression indicated that service quality could statistically significantly predict repurchase intension (F = (5,378) = 80.456, p= 0.000). Assurance has strongest impact on repurchase intension (p = 0.000,  $\beta = .343$ ). Followed by reliability (p = 0.000,  $\beta = .254$ ), empathy (p = 0.002,  $\beta = .211$ ), and responsiveness (p = 0.000,  $\beta = .217$ ), respectively. Tangible is not significant (p = .641,  $\beta = .035$ ). Adjusted R- Square of the model is .509. Hence, Service quality accounted for 50.9% of the explained variability in repurchase intension. The effect size is strong level. Hypothesis 3 is supported.

Table 5: Coefficient	of Hypothesis 3
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	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.126	.126		8.916	.000
Reliability	.191	.052	.254	3.712	.000
Assurance	.237	.048	.343	4.893	.000
Tangible	024	.051	035	467	.641
Empathy	.144	.047	.211	3.081	.002
responsiveness	.118	.020	.217	5.968	.000

a. dependent variable: Repurchase intention

The result from table 6 suggested that the effect of service quality on repurchase intention is stronger than its effect on customer satisfaction in all dimensions of service quality except for tangible dimension that it is not significant to the model.

	Customer satisfaction			Repurchase intention			
	Standardized β	Unstandardized β	Sig	Standardized β	Unstandardized β	Sig	
Reliability	.240	.215	.001	.254	.191	.000	
Assurance	.313	.257	.000	.343	.237	.000	
Tangible	.069	.057	.359	035	024	.641	
Empathy	.151	.123	.030	.211	.144	.002	
Responsiveness	.162	.104	.000	.217	.118	.000	

#### Table 6: Effect Comparison

Table 7: Hypotheses summary

Hypotheses				Adjusted R-	Result
	F	P-Value	R-square	square	
H1: Service Quality $\rightarrow$ Customer	F(5,378) =	.000	.500	.493	Supported
Satisfaction	75.451				
H2: Customer satisfaction $\rightarrow$ Repurchase	F(1,382) =	.000	.416	.415	Supported
intention	272.393				
H3: Service quality $\rightarrow$ Repurchase	F(5,378) =	.000	.516	.509	Supported
intention	80.456				••

#### 5. Discussions and Conclusion

This study explores the impact of service quality on customer satisfaction and on repurchase intention as well as the impact of customer satisfaction on repurchase intension. This study confirmed the impact of service quality on customer satisfaction Assurance has strongest impact on customer satisfaction (p = 0.000,  $\beta = .313$ ). Followed by reliability (p = 0.000,  $\beta = .240$ ), empathy (p = 0.000,  $\beta = .151$ ), and responsiveness (p = 0.000,  $\beta = .162$ ), respectively. This finding is consistent with Shokouhyar et al. [19] which suggested that after-sales services quality is very important to satisfy the customer through the way of trying to understand their customer's desires and needs. Good customer service during the warranty period is the main customer expectations. In addition, response time, repair time, price-performance ratio, service contract options, availability of spare parts, and general behavior of technicians as the main important factors for customer satisfaction. Hence, reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy are very significant to improve customer satisfaction.

Furthermore, the current study confirmed the impact of customer satisfaction on repurchases intention ( $\beta$ = .645). This finding is consistent with Elbeltagi and Agag [20] that found satisfaction and attitude to be major antecedents of customer repurchase intention. In addition, this study confirmed the impact of after sales service quality on repurchases intention. Assurance has strongest impact on repurchase intension (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = .343). Followed by reliability (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = .254), empathy (p = 0.002,  $\beta$  = .211), and responsiveness (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = .217), respectively ( $\beta$  = 1.188) this finding is consistent with the research result of Tandon et al. [21] service quality significantly related to repurchase intentions. Reliability, responsiveness, assurance, empathy are significant at p<0.05 on repurchase intentions.

However, this study found that tangible is not significantly effect on customer satisfaction and

on repurchase intention. This finding aligns with Panda and Das [22] that study on hospital and asserted that tangibility is not significant to service quality. They also suggested that tools and equipment are not significant to tangibility while physical facilities are still significant to tangibility.

#### 6. Managerial Implication

Reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy are the key factors to satisfy the customer in the automobile industry through which the customer develop the intention to repurchase the services. In addition, since tangible is not significantly impact on customer satisfaction and on repurchase intention, the company should focus on other dimensions of service quality that can improve customer satisfaction since the interaction between staffs of the company and customers greatly contribute to customer satisfaction. The study suggested that customers might spend less time on tangible facilities for after-sales auto-services, therefore, they are less focus on tangible facilities. Hence, the improvement of tangible facilities might not directly improve customer satisfaction and repurchase intention. Nonetheless, the company should ensure that they have standard tools and facilities for staffs to serve the customers. This will help to enhance customer satisfaction and repurchase intention. Increase the after-sales service quality will help the automobile organization to develop the customer satisfaction level and increase in customer satisfaction level increase the repurchase intention of the customer.

The current study also found that the effect of service quality on repurchase intention is stronger than on customer satisfaction. This suggested that high service quality induce customer to revisit the dealer and use the services while not only satisfy with the perceived service quality. Hence, high service quality would extend customer loyalty toward the service of the company. In addition, the company should focus on keeping securely customer personal information. They have to recruit staff who are knowledgeable. Moreover, the automobile dealer should give individual attention of the customer, especially, and automobile dealer provided adequate transportation service (e.g., pickup, drop up, and free rental car)", and Entry, exit and parking facilities, visually appealing waiting lounge.

### 7. Limitation and Recommendations for Future Research

The current research focus on the after-sales service quality in the automobile of India. The future research might include other factors relating to customer relationship with the brand such as brand commitment. Further research could also explore after-sales service quality in the context of service recovery.

### 8. Acknowledgment

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