

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND SERVICE QUALITY IN FIVE-STAR HOTELS WITH SERVICE ROBOTS

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ABSTRACT

The findings elucidate that that guests in male category, having joint family, in 31-40 years of age and holding post-graduation are having higher degree of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots. Benefits, drawbacks and personal experience are dimensions of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots. Benefits and personal experience are positively and significantly influencing, while, drawbacks is negatively and significantly influencing overall Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots.

Key Words: Customer satisfaction, service quality, Guests, Service Robots, Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots

INTRODUCTION

In present times, the entire globe is witnessing outstanding growth in robotics, artificial intelligence and automation of services (Neapolitan and Jiang 201;). Robots are using in industrial production, transportation, surgery and medical diagnoses, education, supply chain management practices (Kanda and Ishiguro, 2012), logistics and agriculture and service sectors and they are helping old people and children of special needs (Ivanov, 2017), entertainment, surveillance and military and safety operations (Samani, 2016). Nowadays, robots are largely using in travel, hotel and tourism industries across the globe (Ritzer, 2015; Gladstone, 2016) and they are creating opportunities to hospitality organizations for fully automation to enhance their operational efficacy and quality of product and services delivery and profitability and offering superior quality of services to consumers or guests (Borràs et al 2014).

Hospitality companies are increasingly using robots for different operations namely cleaning (Lukanova and Ilieva 2019), delivery of food items (Collins et al 2017), room services, giving information, entertainment (Tuomi et al. 2020) and assistance to guests (Ivanov and Webster 2019). Service robots are entering in to restaurants (Lee et al 2018; Berezina et al 2019;), hotels (Nakanishi et al 2020) and operations of bars (Foster et al 2013).

The viewpoint of owners and managers of hotels in using robots from the supply side is largely important (Lietal 2019) because they are making decision to use robots in their hotel operations (Lee et al 2018) based on benefits (Xu et al 2020) they are receiving from them and practical difficulties faced by them in operating them and they are highly useful and supplement to employees of hotels in carrying out dirty and harmful activities and operations and they are efficiently using robots in different operations (Lin et al 2019). In the demand side, attitude of guests for acceptance of robots in delivering services (Lu et al 2019), their confidence (Park, 2020) and appropriateness (Ivanov and Webster 2019) are very important for adoption of service robots in hotel industries. Therefore, an attempt is made to study Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots.

REVIEW OF EARLIER STUDIES

The usefulness of robots in providing services in hotel and hospitality industries is having different kind of impacts in operations of hotels and attitude and satisfaction of guests. Attitude of consumers in using robots in delivering services in hotels is highly important and they are having favourable and unfavourable attitude towards them and it is also affecting their views (Ajzen and Fishbein, 2005). Attitude is the group of feelings of consumers based on their evaluation of a particular phenomenon (Kraus, 1995) and it is their mental aspect and they are also getting information about it from others (Ajzen, 2001) and it is a psychological component of individuals and their evaluation about a subject (Eagly and Chaiken, 1993) and it is also considered as their learning state (Chakraborty et al 2007).

Attitude of consumers is influenced by several aspects of a particular object or phenomenon or adoption of new things (Glasman and Albarracín, 2006; Kabadayi and Gupta, 2011) and it is evaluated in different formats and ways (Lorenzo-Romero et al 2011) and it is closely related with evaluation of consumers about a subject and its formation is taking time and sometimes they are not closely associated with them (Wittenbrink and Schwarz, 2007) and attitude of guests is connected with their behaviour (Kroesen et al 2017; Kroesen and Chorus, 2018) and in some cases, it is very difficult to measure and is having little linkage with their behaviour (Bamberg et al 2003; Bamberg, 2006;) and in general, it is largely connected with their behaviour (Kroesen et al 2017) and attitude is using predict the behaviour of consumers in hospitality sector.

New and modern technologies are intensively adopting and are affecting attitude of consumers especially in hotel industries (Cui et al 2009; Denis-Rémis, 2011; Morosan and DeFranco, 2014) and adequate technologies are also adopting in hospitality industries (Burner and Kumar, 2005;

Lin and Hsieh, 2006; Reisch et al 2011; Kim and Qu, 2014). Guests are feeling that new technologies are highly attractive and improving service operations and their attitude and satisfaction (Lin and Hsieh, 2006). Attitude of consumers are improving or changing due to use of technologies and they make their life more easier (Bilgihan et al 2010; Singh, 2014) and it helps for reduction of time, cost and quick in providing services to consumers (Bilgihan et al 2016) and it is also influencing their behaviour in future periods (Cobanoglu et al 2017) and at the same time, it is creating more complication and difficulties in adoption and delivering services through advanced technologies (Wang and Qualls, 2007).

Robots are using in delivering services and carrying out various operations in hospitality industries (Katz and Halpern, 2014; Dinet and Vivian, 2014; Pino et al 2015) and interaction among technologies (Malchus et al 2013) and consumers are also significantly growing (Frennert and Östlund, 2014; Reich-Stieber and Eyssel, 2015; Pochwatko et al 2015; Piçarra, 2016; Hudson et al 2017) and there are some factors that are affecting use of robots in hotel industries and gender of guests are indifferent in their attitude for use of robots (Dinet and Vivian, 2014) and female consumers are cynical to use of robots in delivering services to them and consumers of urban areas are having positive and favourable attitude towards use of robots (Hudson et al 2017) and it is the index for readiness to employ mechnoid in hotel operations (Malchus et al 2013). Meanwhile, larger segment of consumers are interested in using robots in providing services to them (Ivanov et al 2018) and they are holding favourable attitude towards them.

METHODOLOGY

The survey had conducted for collection of data from guests of five star hotels in Tamil Nadu, India and random sampling method had adopted for selection guests of five star hotels. The interview schedule had used to collect data from 300 guests by adopting personal interview method. Descriptive statistics, Mann Whitney U test, Kruskal-Wallis H test, exploratory factor analysis and regression analysis had applied to study the objectives of this study.

RESULTS

Profile of Guests

The profile of guests is disclosed in Table-1. Out of 300 guests, of which 158 (52.67%) are males and 142 (47.33%) are females. With respect to age, 118

(39.33%) are in 31-40 years, 104 (34.67%) are in 21-30 years and 78 (26.00%) are in 41-50 years. Regarding to educational level, 114 (38.00%) are having under gradation, 97 (32.33%) are having post graduation, 56 (18.67%) are having diploma

and 33 (11.00%) are having higher secondary. With regarding to family type,232 (77.33%)are in nuclear family and 68 (22.67%) are in joint family.

Table-1.ProfileofGuests

Profile	Frequency	%
Gender		
Male	158	52.67
Female	142	47.33
Age		
21-30 years	104	34.67
31-40 years	118	39.33
41-50 years	78	26.00
Education		
HigherSecondary	33	11.00
Diploma	56	18.67
UnderGraduation	114	38.00
Post Graduation	97	32.33
FamilyType		
Joint	68	22.67
Nuclear	232	77.33

Customer Satisfaction and ServiceQualityin Five-StarHotels with Service Robots

Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots is disclosed in Table-2.

Table-2.CustomerSatisfactionandServiceQualityinFive-StarHotels with Service Robots

Sl.No.	CustomersatisfactiontowardsUsingService Robots	Mean	SD
1.	Robotsarequickerascomparedtoemployees	3.90	0.87
2.	Robotsaremakingcomputationaccuratelythan employees	3.84	1.02

3.	Robotsarealwaysprovidingcorrectinformation incomparisonwithemployees	3.32	0.71
4.	Robotsarehavingcapacitytogiveinformationin differentlanguagesascompared toemployees	3.77	0.92
5.	Robotsaremorefriendlyincomparisonwith employees	3.29	1.52
6.	Robotsarehighlyrespectfulascomparedto employees	3.04	1.16
7.	Robotsarecapabletounderstandthedegreeof satisfactionofguests	3.23	1.50
8.	Robotsarenotfunctioningproperlyindelivering servicesinalltimes	3.62	1.12
9.	Robotsareusinghigherelectricity	3.66	1.18
10.	Robotsaremisinterpretingqueriesofguests	3.72	0.82
11.	Robots are working based on programmes incorporatedwiththem	3.97	0.88
12.	Theexperiencewithservicesgivenbyrobotsis unforgettable	3.80	0.97
13.	Theexperiencewithservicesgivenbyrobotsis enjoyable	3.69	1.05
14.	Theexperiencewithservicesgivenbyrobotsis exhilarating	3.82	0.86

The guests are agreed with robots are quicker as compared to employees, making computation accurately than employees, having capacity to give information in different languages as compared to employees, not functioning properly in delivering services in all times, are using higher electricity, are misinterpreting queries of guests, are working based on programmes incorporated with them and the experience with services given by them is unforgettable, is enjoyable and is exhilarating, while, they are neutral with robots are always providing correct information in comparison with employees, are more friendly in comparison with employees, are highly respectful as compared to employees and are capable to understand the degree of satisfaction of guests.

Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and their Gender and Family Type-Mann WhitneyU Test

The difference amidst Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five- Star Hotels with Service Robots and their gender and family type is disclosed in Table-3.

Sl.No.	Profile	Particulars	Mean Rank	Sumof Rank	Mann-Whitney UTest	Z-Value	Sig.
1.	Gender	Male	153.22	24209.00	1.079E4	-.574	.566
		Female	147.47	20941.00			
2.	FamilyType	Joint	131.46	8939.50	6.594E3	-2.062	.039
		Nuclear	156.08	36210.50			

The above table indicates that guests in male category and having joint family are having higher degree of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-StarHotelswithServiceRobots.Significantdifferenceiswitnessedamidst

Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and their family type because Z-value is significant for it.

Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and their Age and Education- Kruskal-Wallis HTest

The difference amidst Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five- Star Hotels with Service Robots and their age and education is disclosed in Table-4. Table-4. Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels withServiceRobotsandtheirAgeandEducation-Kruskal-WallisHTest

Sl.No.	Profile	Particulars	Mean Rank	Kruskal WallisH	Sig.
1.	Age	21-30 years	158.68	45.088	.000
		31-40 years	179.39		
		41-50 years	95.89		
		Higher Secondary	142.33		
		Diploma	119.55		

2.	Education	Under Graduation	158.69	10.038	.018
		Post Graduation	161.52		

The above table reveals that guests in 31-40 years of age and holding post graduation are having higher degree of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots. Significant difference is prevailing amidst Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and their age and education since Kruskal Wallis H values are significant.

Dimensions of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five- Star Hotels with Service Robots

An exploratory factor analysis is employed to dimensions of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and the result is disclosed in Table-5.

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin test value to assess adequacy of sampling is 0.876. Bartlett test of Sphericity's Chi-Square value is 0.0082 and it is significant in 1% level. Hence, method of factor analysis is apt. Principal Component Analysis method is applied to obtain factors by using varimax type of rotation and it is converged in 7th iterations. Cronbach's Alpha value is 0.86 displaying that the level of internal consistency is very much acceptable. Three dimensions are attained and they are sharing together 74.76% of total variation.

Table-5. Dimension of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots

Dimensions	Factor Loadings (Rotated)	Eigen Value	Variation (%)
Dimension 1: Benefits			
Robots are quicker as compared to employees	0.82	4.82	37.56
Robots are making computation accurately than employees	0.77		
Robots are always providing correct information in comparison with employees	0.89		
Robots are having capacity to give information in different languages as compared to employees	0.68		

Robots are more friendly in comparison with employees	0.70		
Robots are highly respectful as compared to employees	0.72		
Dimension 2: Drawbacks			
Robots are not functioning properly in delivering services in all times	0.74		
Robots are using higher electricity	0.79	1.96	22.45
Robots are misinterpreting queries of guests	0.65		
Robots are working based on programmes incorporated with them	0.70		
Dimension 3: Personal Experience			
The experience with services given by robots is unforgettable	0.83	1.14	14.74
The experience with services given by robots is enjoyable	0.68		
The experience with services given by robots is exhilarating	0.66		
Robots are capable to understand the degree of satisfaction of guests	0.71		
Total	-	-	74.76

Dimension - I includes robots are quicker as compared to employees, robots are making computation accurately than employees, robots are always providing correct information in comparison with employees, robots are having capacity to give information in different languages as compared to employees, robots are more friendly in comparison with employees and robots are highly respectful as compared to employees and this first dimension is described as Benefits and it shares 37.56% of variation.

Dimension - II comprises of robots are not functioning properly in delivering services in all times, robots are using higher electricity, robots are misinterpreting queries of guests and robots are working based on programmes incorporated with them and this second dimension is denoted as Drawbacks and it shares 22.45% of variation.

Dimension - III contains the experience with services given by robots is unforgettable, the experience with services given by robots is enjoyable, the experience with services given by robots is exhilarating and robots are capable to understand the degree of satisfaction of guests and this third dimension is denoted as Personal Experience and it shares 14.74% of variation.

Benefits, drawbacks and personal experience are dimensions of attitude of guests towards the introduction of automation using service robots in five starhotels.

Influence of Dimensions of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots

The regression analysis is employed to analyze dimensions of attitude on overallattitudeofguests towardstheintroductionofautomationusingservicerobots in five star hotels and the result is disclosed in Table-6. R^2 and Adjusted R^2 are 0.48 and 0.46 in the orders showing the regression model has good fit and F-value is

29.325 indicating that the model is significant.

Table-6. Influence of Dimensions of Satisfaction on Overall Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots

Dimension	Partial Regression Coefficients	t-Value	Sig.
Constant	3.615	19.718	.000
Benefits(X_1)	.427	8.532	.000
Drawbacks(X_2)	-.158	3.397	.000
Personal Experience(X_3)	.392	7.245	.000
R^2	0.48	-	-
Adjusted R^2	0.46	-	-
F	29.325	-	.000

Benefits and personal experience are positively and significantly influencing, while, drawbacks is negatively and significantly influencing overall Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots in 1% level.

Other things remain constant, 1% increase in benefits, there will be 0.43% will increase in overall Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and 1% increase in personal experience, there will be 0.39% will increase in overall attitude of guests towards the introduction of automation using service robots and 1% increase in drawbacks, there will be 0.16% will decrease in overall Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

From the results, it is evident that guests in male category are having higher degree of attitude towards the introduction of automation using service robots in five star hotels and it is on par with findings of Katz and Halpern (2014) Dinet and Vivian (2014), Pochwatko et al (2015), Piçarra (2016), Hudson et al (2017) and Ivanov et al (2018) as they are highly receptive in use of advanced technologies and service robots are continuously and steadily using for providing various services to guests in five star hotels.

Guests in 31-40 years of age are also having higher degree of Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and it is contrast with other studies namely Reich-Stieber and Eyssel (2015) and Hudson et al (2017) that reveal that youngsters are having higher and positive attitude in using service robots as they are tech-savvy and easily accepting innovations and it is also par with finding of Brandl et al (2016).

Further, benefits and personal experience of guests with robots are largely contributing to their customer satisfaction towards them and it is interestingly implying that guests of star category hotels in Tamil Nadu are looking positive aspects of using service robots and they are just ignoring negative aspects of service robots in providing services in star category hotels and benefits and personal experience are influencing overall attitude of guests towards the introduction of automation using service robots and it is confirmed by outcomes of (Malchus et al 2013) and (Ivanov et al (2018) and also they are confirming that guests are positive Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots.

This study is concluded that guests in male category and 31-40 years of age and having post graduation and joint family are having higher degree of attitude towards the introduction of automation using service robots in five star hotels. Further, benefits and personal experience are positively and significantly influencing, while, drawbacks is negatively and significantly influencing overall Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots.

IMPLICATIONS

Managers of star category hotels should use robots for delivering various services and activities to guests that are greatly acceptable and enjoyed by them and they must take serious efforts to increase Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality in Five-Star Hotels with Service Robots and they may attract more number of guests to stay and enjoy the exclusiveness in star category hotels. Managers of star category hotels must use robots reception, cleaning, information given, payment activities and carrying out room services to guests. Managers of star hotels should use employees along with service robots for increasing operational and service efficacy and they will improve their image among guests and they must properly manage mixture of employees and robots in hotel operations. Meanwhile, managers of star hotels must increase benefits and improve personal experience of

guests by using services of robots without affecting their satisfaction and it will improve their competitiveness and profitability.

LIMITATION AND AGENDA FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

This study is confined to guest staying in star category hotels in Tamil Nadu and the sample size is also limited to 300 only. The future research may be taken in other geographical locations in India for assessing whether attitude is cultural and or regional specific or not. The similar research would be carried out on resorts and other type of hotels in India in future and also assess the impact of introduction of service robots in changing their attitudes and satisfaction about services and the future study may be carried out in tourism, travelling and hospitality sectors.

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