

Technology acceptance and purchase intention towards 3G technology among millennial smart phone users: A case of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the technology acceptance and purchase intention for Third Generation (3G) technology in Pakistan's telecom sector. In such respect, Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) has been used to find the effects of the independent variables (Perceived Usefulness, Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Value, Perceived Enjoyment, Personal Innovativeness and Price) on dependent variable (purchase intention). The study population consisted of smartphone users among Millennials in district Haripur-a region in transition towards urbanization. 200 respondents provided the useable data. The results of the study show that perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, perceived value, perceived enjoyment, personal innovativeness, and price have a significant and positive relationship with purchase intention which validates the growing acceptance of advanced technologies in such regions.

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1. Introduction

Last two decades have seen a tremendous development and growth in the usage of information technology (Chen et al., 2011). Every technology is evolving partially or completely and even small children have access to readily moved phones with peripatetic technologies like broadband (Ali & M, 2013). Mobile phones help in development and maintaining of relationships among businesses and people. Different people use cell phones to communicate and connect them with their social circles and many use it as a symbol of personality and uniqueness (Grant & O' Donohoe, 2007). Due to rapid changes in technology, cell phones are evolving at a fast pace. According to Ting et al. (2011) and Persaud and Azhar (2012), the users of cell phones are experiencing changes from way of communication with the multimedia device known as smartphones. The entry of the smart phones introduces a rapid growth and has removed many other industries from the market. Multiple tasks can be performed through a smart phone. This feature of smart phones makes it popular all over the world and Pakistan is not behind. According to a survey, about 5 percent of cell phone users in Pakistan have a smart phone (Adclout, 2013). So with the changes and growth in the smart phones also come the

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changes in mobile services (Ali et al., 2015). As in Pakistan, 3G was introduced in July, 2014 after 1G and 2G. Third-generation (3G) mobile communication technology has augmented bandwidth, protected swiftness and proficiency of data broadcast, as well as improved the speed and capability of data recovery. Thus, the discovery of the 3G wireless communication system certainly offers an advanced wireless bandwidth and more varied video and audio facilities to clients than formerly (Kuo & Yen, 2009). Pakistan is among those countries that are using the information technology and adopting the new technologies of the time. Different companies introduced 3G technology in Pakistan and the ratios of the users are significant. To make them satisfied and estimating their level of satisfaction, it is mandatory to check that whether they are willing to use this technology in future and up to what grounds they are using it? This research study was conducted in district Haripur, Pakistan for the very first time to check out the technology acceptance and the purchase intention of 3G technology among the users of Millennials age group. TAM is important indicator for 3G both of whom are broadly used all over the world (Pagani, 2004). Until know, there is no significant research in Pakistan showing the acceptance of 3G technology in transitional districts like Haripur. This study aims to investigate the technology acceptance and purchase intention of 3G technology among millennial smart phone users in district Haripur, Pakistan.

2. Literature review

2.1 Technology acceptance model (TAM)

TAM, originally developed by Davis (1989), is a research model for studying the factors of information structure and information technology acceptance to forecast aim to utilize and approval of information system and information technology through people. In two ways TAM is exclusive from Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA). First TAM initiated two new concepts-perceived ease of use which is ‘anticipation that a technology involves slightest effort’ and perceived usefulness which is ‘an acuity that the practice of a technology can boost performance of assignment at hand’ (Davis & Venkatesh, 1996). Perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness both in TAM could forecast one’s behavior regarding the utilization of an application. Secondly, TAM has evolved for new technologies to incorporate objectivity (Legris et al., 2003; Serenko et al., 2008) by introduction of new predictors other than the two mentioned by Davis et al. (1989).

2.2 TAM and various technologies

Initially TAM was used to estimate the market trend for leading investments in newly developed technologies. For such purpose, a range of then developing personal computers were used in arena of multi-media, pen-based computing and image processing. (Davis & Venkatesh, 1996). According to Gefen (2000), TAM has been applied both inside and outside the organization to a number of different samples and user groups like groupware (Taylor & Todd, 1995). Forecasters like self-efficacy, experience, gender and culture were also used to extend TAM in various studies. Ngai et al. (2007) used TAM to see the impact of technical support as a forerunner and afterward explored the part of the extended model in consumer acceptance of Web CT web course tools. The outcomes show the significance of perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness in dominating the relationship of technological growth with attitude and Web CT usage. Elliott and Fu (2008) used TAM to see the impact of adoption model in view of the TAM and TRA to inspect the effect of three particular deals strategies which are product-focused, competitive-focused, and customer-focused on the acceptance of a consumer technology development.

Lin et al. (2010) used TAM to understand the impact of purchaser inspiration and the fulfillment of online consumers while making a purchase. Sung and Yun (2010) used TAM to understand the impact of Perceived Enjoyment (PE) and what determinants can add to PE in the context of mobile media service utilization. It was found that PE impacts Perceived Usefulness (PU) and Perceived Ease of Use

(PEOU) and specifically Behavior Intention (BI). Yuliharsi and Islam (2011) used TAM to see the impact of student's purchasing intention through web shopping in an establishment of higher learning in Malaysia. Usefulness, ease of use and security has been discovered to be vital forecaster toward attitude in on-line shopping. Shroff et al. (2011) used TAM to understand the impact of students' behavioral intention to utilize an electronic portfolio framework. The study summarized that students' perceived ease of use (PEOU) had an important impact on attitude towards utilization (ATU). Afterward, perceived ease of use (PEOU) had the strongest critical impact on perceived usefulness (PU). Zarrad and Debabi (2012) used TAM for online purchasing behavior and reported that past experience about (PEOU) and (PU) were the most critical components in determining online shopping intention.

Bamoriya and Singh (2012) used TAM to see the impact of mobile consumers' intentions to get SMS publicizing in India. The study recommended that to raise acceptance of SMS promotion, advertisers ought to concentrate more on growing utility of SMS advertisements, so that users would create optimistic attitudes towards SMS publicizing. Liang et al. (2013) used TAM to understand customer mindfulness and readiness to utilize hypermarket e-shopping destinations. The outcomes demonstrate that customers' trust on e-shopping sites applies essentially positive outcome on perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Also, customers' flow experience essentially impacts perceived usefulness of the e-shopping sites and e-shopping utilization intention. Richard and Hong (2014) used TAM for measuring the impact of online promotions on purchase intention of customers. They found that by increasing customers' perception of ease of use and by decreasing customer's perceived risk, online sales promotion has a noteworthy impact on their purchasing intention. Abu Bakar and Bidin (2014) used TAM in their study and reported that TAM model has greater use in movie mobile advertising. Maoyan et al. (2014) used TAM to understand the impact of social media marketing (SMM) environment on talks about the features of customer buy intention. The outcomes demonstrate that social media marketing stimulate outside factors and afterward impact the buyer's internal perception elements. Finally, it will influence buyers' purchase intention.

2.3 3G and technology acceptance model

Pagani (2004) used TAM to find out the relationship between 3G and TAM and show that there exist significant positive relationships between 3G and TAM. Phuangthong and Malisawan (2005) used TAM to measure the effects of different factors that affect the adoption of 3G. They discovered that TAM is helpful in understanding and adopting 3G internet on Smartphone. Karjaluoto (2006) used TAM and showed that standardization, user acceptance, and pricing, were the most influential factors. Kuo and Yen (2008) used TAM to understand the customer's behavioral intention to utilize 3G mobile value-added services. Consequences of this study give an important reference to service developers to create mobile value-added services. Singh et al. (2010) used TAM to study 3rd generation (3G) services in India. They found perceived usefulness having the most significant relationship while perceived risk and cost adoption were found to be significant. The number of third generation (3G) users has enlarged considerably which demonstrates its importance as a wireless technology which can provide more broad contents than other wireless services (Suk, 2011). Suki and Suki (2011) used TAM and found that perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use and attitude are the determining factors of users' intention to utilization of 3G mobile services, its influencing users' intention towards utilizing 3G mobile service and found that perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use and attitude to be that most critical variables.

Mardikyan et al. (2012) analyzed the components influencing 3G technology perception and acceptance. They found that perceived usefulness, variety of 3G services, service quality and social influence were the main antecedents of behavioral intention of 3G acceptance. Garg and Garg (2013) used an extended TAM model to investigate the 3G utilization. They concluded that social influence impacts the ease of use and perceptions of price were found to impact perceptions of the usefulness,

which in turn, influences on the pricing policy for operators. Kumar and Sikri (2013) argued that TAM is an extremely robust model in forecasting the utilization of the mobiles and PC technology. They found that behavior intention, perceived quality, perceive enjoyment, ease of use, and perceive usefulness, price level utilizing social influence and encouraging conditions are the most important factors. Lin et al. (2015) also used TAM to study the factors effecting 3G mobile service acceptance in Taiwan. Results show that perceived need and perceived enjoyment were key components in acceptance of 3G services.

2.4 3G and TAM in Pakistan

Fida and Ahmed (2014) studied the relationship of consumer attitude with service innovation. They considered 3G as a service innovation in the Pakistani context. They found that perceived ease of use, perceived price fairness, fashion consciousness had a positive significant relationship to the customer attitude towards service innovation. As apparent from the discussed literature, TAM has been used in multiple researches for emerging new technologies especially in the field of information technology. There have been some studies internationally which have evaluated the 3G technology using TAM as mentioned earlier in literature.

In Pakistan, TAM has been used for technologies other than 3G many times but 3G technology's acceptance and purchase intention among Pakistani consumers have not been thoroughly and dedicatedly studied. Moreover, the importance of this research is more vital in regions which are in transition towards urbanization. In this study, we have endeavored to check the technology acceptance and purchase intention of 3G technology among smartphone users from Millennials age group in district Haripur, Pakistan. The model has been adopted from previous studies (Bakara & Bidin, 2013; Baran, 2009; Agarwal et al., 2007; Childers, 2001; Moon & Kim, 2001).

Research methodology

2.5 Theoretical Framework

There is one dependent variable namely purchase intention and six independent variables of technology acceptance namely perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, perceived value, perceived enjoyment, personal innovativeness, price and purchase intention

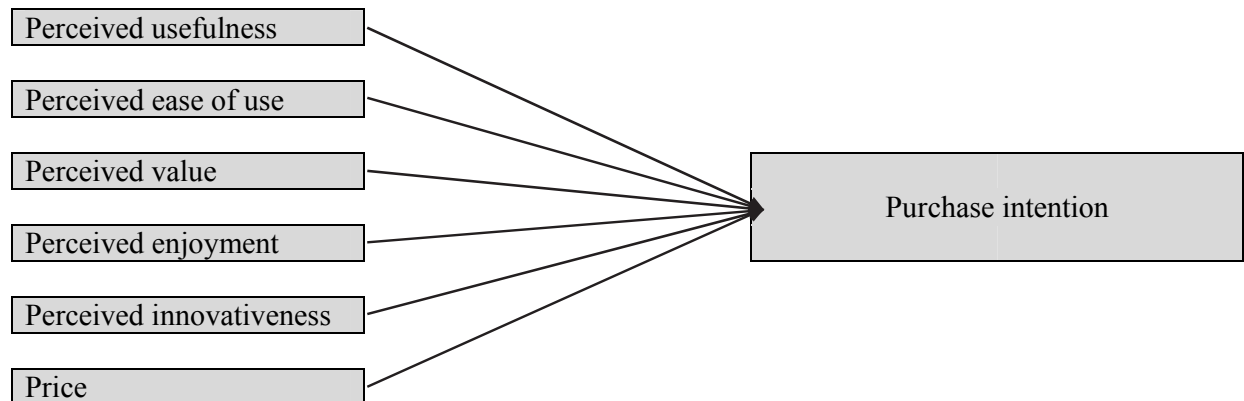


Fig. 1. Theoretical framework

(Adopted from Bakara & Bidin, 2013; Baran, 2009; Agarwal et al., 2007; Childers, 2001; Moon & Kim, 2001)

2.6 Population

The population of this study comprises of all the smart phone users in Pakistan belonging to the Millennium age group (15 to 33 years) of regions which are in the transitional stage from rural culture to urbanization.

2.7 Sample and sampling technique

Haripur district was selected for data collection on the basis of purposive plus convenient sampling because of two reasons. Firstly, it is in a transitional stage from a rural culture to urbanization and one of the main characteristics of such regions is their acceptance and inclination towards advance technologies (Kates et al., 2006). So, studies like these can predict to some extent their levels of acceptance for new technologies. Secondly, time and financial limitations also were responsible for selection of district Haripur. This was followed by selection of university and college on the basis of cluster sampling. Then convenient and simple random samplings were used to gather data from the university and college students as they form the bulk of smart phone users belonging to the Millennials age group. Some questionnaires were filled through structured interviews while most were provided with questionnaire to be filled on their convenience and then returned on the agreed time and date.

2.8 Hypotheses

H₁: Perceived Usefulness positively affects purchase intention of 3G mobile service among Millennium smart phone users.

H₂: Perceive Ease of Use positively affects purchase intention of 3G mobile service among Millennium smart phone users.

H₃: Perceived value positively affects purchase intention of 3G mobile service among Millennium smart phone users.

H₄: Perceived enjoyment positively affects purchase intention of 3G mobile service among Millennium smart phone users.

H₅: Personal innovativeness positively affects purchase intention of 3G mobile service among Millennium smart phone users.

H₆: Price negatively affects purchase intention of 3G mobile service among Millennium smart phone users.

3. Results

Three statistical techniques were used for data analysis namely descriptive statistics, regression analysis and correlation analysis.

3.1 Descriptive statistics for demographic variables

The descriptive statistics includes gender, age, education level, occupation, income level, and mobile network usage and 3G technology. Among the respondents, 63.5% were male and 36.5% were female. All of the respondents belonged to the millennial age group from which 15 to 25 years were 90% and 26 to 33 years were 10%. Under graduates were 57.5%, graduates were 42.0% and college students were 5%. Students were 98% and entrepreneurs were 2%. The respondents having house hold monthly income under Rs. 20,000 were 51%, 20,000 to 29,900 were 17.3%, 30,000 to 60,000 were 13.9%, and above 60,000 are 16.8%. Mobilink users were 14.4%, Ufone users were 25.7%, Telenor users were 21.3%, Zong users were 28.7% and Warid users were 8.9%. 100% respondents were using 3G technology. As per the skewness values provided in Table 1, it is evident that the data is normally distributed.

Table 1

Showing Descriptive Statistics showing Skewness

	N	Mean	Skewness	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
PU	200	3.6920	-.746	.172
PEU	200	3.4840	-.269	.172
PV	200	3.5400	-.281	.172
PE	200	3.5890	-.308	.172
PIN	200	3.4550	-.174	.172
P	200	3.4717	.196	.172
PI	200	3.8090	-.501	.172
Valid N (listwise)	200			

3.2 Correlation

In this research study correlation is used in order to found out how much strength is there among the relationship of independent and dependent variables and the results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Showing Pearson correlation among variables

	PEOU		PU		PV		PI		P		PE	
	R	Sig.	R	Sig.	R	Sig.	R	Sig.	R	Sig.	R	Sig.
PI	.410**	.000	.437**	.000	.390**	.000	.433	.000	.301**	.000	.461**	.000

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

3.3 Regression analysis

Regression analysis has multiple use, mostly its value shows

- Strength of the connection
- Direction of the relationship (positive, negative, zero)
- Goodness of model fit.

In Table , “R” stands for Multiple Correlation Coefficient and its outcome value is 0.599, And R Square tell us the ratio of interdependence and its outcome value is 0.359, Adjusted R Square value is 0.339 which is when multiplied by 100 to convert it into percentage then comes to 35% which means that 35% of the Variance in purchase intention can be predicted by Independent variables like perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, perceived value, perceived enjoyment, personal innovativeness and price.

Table 3

Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.599 ^a	.359	.339	.60756

a. Predictors: (Constant), P, PU, PV, PIN, PE, PEU

Table 3, shows the regression results for the relationship of dependent and independent variables. The first hypothesis shows the effect of perceived usefulness on purchase intention and found a significant relationship with a positive value of .437 and B value is 0.289. The second hypothesis shows the

effect of perceived ease of use on purchase intention and found a significant relationship with a positive value of .410 and B value is 0.390.

Table 4
Coefficient

Model	B	Std. Error	T	Sig.
PU	.289	.076	3.805	.000
PEU	.390	.091	.425	.000
PV	.146	.084	1.747	.000
PE	.275	.085	3.240	.000
PIN	.171	.068	2.506	.000
P	.213	.066	.200	.000

a. Dependent variable: PI

The third hypothesis shows the effect of perceived value on purchase intention found a significant relationship with a positive value .390 and B value is 0.146. The fourth hypothesis shows the effect of perceived enjoyment on purchase intention and found a significant relationship with a positive value .461 and B value is 0.275. The fifth hypothesis shows the effect of personal innovativeness on purchase intention and found a significant relationship with a positive value .433 and B value is 0.17. The sixth hypothesis shows the effect of price on purchase intention it find out a significant but positive relationship with a positive value .301 and B value is 0.213 which means that the sixth hypothesis was rejected. Hence the result shows that there are positive relations between independent variables and dependent variable for 3G and five hypotheses has been accepted, while one hypothesis is rejected.

4. Discussion and recommendations

4.1 Discussion

The end result of this research shows that the effect of perceived usefulness on purchase intention of 3G technology and it revealed a positive significant relation as previously studied by Suki (2011), Baran (2009), Phuangthong and Malisawan (2005), Suki and Suki (2011). The second hypothesis tells the conclusion of perceived ease of use on purchase intention of 3G technology and result revealed a positive significant relation as previously studied (Suki, 2011; Baran, 2009; Phuangthong & Malisawan, 2005; Suki & Suki, 2011). The third hypothesis show the effect of perceived value on purchase intention of 3G technology and result revealed a positive significant relation as previously studied (Agarwal et al., 2007). The fourth hypothesis shows the effect of perceived enjoyment on purchase intention of 3G technology and result revealed a positive significant relation as previously studied (Suki, 2011; Baran, 2009; Phuangthong & Malisawan, 2005). The fifth hypothesis shows the effect of personal innovativeness on purchase intention of 3G technology and result revealed a positive significant relation as previously studied (Baran, 2009). The sixth hypothesis show the effect of price on purchase intention of 3G technology and result revealed a positive significant relation as previously studied (Sun, 2007; Fida et al., 2014) which was totally opposite to the hypothesized relationship.

4.2. Conclusions and implications

From the results it has been concluded that all the independent variables have a very significant role in shaping the intentions of consumers towards purchase of 3G technology. Price was negatively hypothesized with PI but results show that it positively affects PI which means Price skimming is the best strategy in case of 3G technology in its introduction and growth phase in transitional regions like Haripur. 3G providing companies can learn a lesson from this result and can focus their promotional efforts on these six variables as they are vital in positively molding consumer mind.

4.3. Limitations and future research

Every research endeavor is subject to limitations and same is the case with this study. These limitations actually pave the way for future research opportunities. Future studies of TAM and 3G in Pakistan can focus on comparison of different age groups as this study was only focused on Millennials. Another study can also increase independent variables to bring more robustness into the model. Sample size can also be expanded to other cities and comparison can be done among them. 4G technology's acceptance can also be studied in Pakistan using TAM.

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