Analysis of Indian Consumers' Behaviour using Lifestyle Segmentation

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Abstract

Demographic profiling has been an important basis of segmenting consumers. But the demographic variables provide a compartmentalised view of consumer behaviour. Purchase and consumption behaviour are in fact the result of influence of many variables operating simultaneously in the background. In order, to provide a holistic view of the 'why and how' of consumers purchase decision, lifestyle analysis has been considered a superior basis of customer profiling in recent research. Lifestyle study focuses on activities, interests and opinions of consumers and their role in formulating consumers' purchase decision. Past researches in India do provide an insight into the segmentation of Indian consumers on demographic and geographic basis. However, not much has been emphasised on the use of lifestyle for segmenting Indian consumers. The present research, therefore, tries to fill this void by providing the lifestyle profiling of the Indian consumers using factor analysis and cluster analysis. This study can help the marketers in segmenting their prospective and present customers using the suggested lifestyle dimensions.

Keywords: Consumer Profile, Indian Consumers, Lifestyle Dimensions, Segmentation **JEL classification:** M31, M39

1. Introduction

In recent times, marketers have taken keen interest in studying the lifestyle patterns of consumers. Lifestyle study focuses on the everyday behaviour of consumers. Demographic studies, in contrast, present merely the demographic characteristics of consumers and are silent about their behavioural dimensions. Demographic variables provide a compartmentalised view of consumers' behaviour. They fail to give the holistic perspective of the consumer purchase behaviour. Purchase and consumption behaviour is in fact, the result of influence of many variables operating simultaneously in the background. In order to provide a holistic view of the 'why and how' of consumers purchase decision, lifestyle analysis has been considered a superior basis of customer profiling in recent research. Lifestyle study focuses on activities, interests and opinions of consumers and their role in formulating consumers' purchase decision.

Lifestyle or psychographics refer to an individual's way of living. Lifestyle segmentation research measures people's activities in terms of their – leisure time Activities, Interests, and Opinions (AIO)^{2,15,22}.

- Activities such as work, leisure (sports and vacation behaviour), shopping habits, entertainment, membership in clubs, associations or community.
- Interests such as work, family, media consumption, eating habits, fashion.
- Opinions such as about oneself, politics, money and business, education, products, the future, social and cultural issues.

This paper reviews the existing literature to identify the key lifestyle dimensions applicable in the Indian context. These dimensions were then tested for differences in lifestyle variables of Indian consumers using factor analysis and further were categorised into three clusters of Indian consumers. Thus, the present study provides classification of Indian consumers on the basis of their lifestyle and demographics. Such grouping of Indian consumers using cluster analysis provides relevant lifestyle segments that can be used by marketers in their targeting and positioning strategy.

Section 1 of the present paper introduces the lifestyle construct based on the review of past research. Section 2 gives a brief review of literature on lifestyle studies. Section 3 presents the objectives of the study in the form of proposed hypotheses. Section 4 throws light on the research design of the study and the profile of the respondents. The results of analysis are discussed in Section 5 followed by conclusion and limitations of the study in Section 6.

2. Literature Review

Bell² introduced lifestyle concept for studying consumer behaviour. Lazer¹⁴ further refined the definition to narrow the conceptual and operational gap in the lifestyle research. Wells and Tigret²² suggested application of lifestyle segmentation in marketing research. Plumer¹⁵ used the term psychographic for lifestyle studies as they combine the psychological and demographic variables in consumer studies and present a better picture of consumer decision-making to the marketer. Since then, lifestyle research has been widely used in consumer research internationally. Some such applications are in areas of retailing (Blackwell and Talarzyk)⁴, product management (Ahmed and Jackson)¹, promotion and communication (Kaynak and Kara)², branding (Berry)³, service quality (Thompson and Kaminiski)¹⁹, online marketing (Liu)¹⁶, regiocentric studies (Harcar and Kaynak)⁵.

Researchers in India have also investigated the lifestyle pattern of Indian consumers on different aspects. Some of these researches are by Kapur^Z (behaviour of two-wheeler owners), Shirali and Singh¹⁸ (segmentation of Indian men), Jain and Dhingra⁶ (fashion lifestyles for segmenting young consumers in India), Verma and Hanspal²⁰ (Profiling middle class consumers), Kumar and Mitra⁸ (brand choice), Roy and Goswami¹⁷ (purchase frequency of consumers), Krishnan¹¹ (brand choice decision).

3. Objectives of the Study and Hypotheses

To understand the existing lifestyle dimensions of the Indian consumers and to identify the type of lifestyle characteristics possessed by these consumers, AIO statements obtained from marketing literature is used^{12.9}. The obtained dimensions are further analysed to segment the consumers into different clusters. So, the present study tests the following hypotheses:

H_.: Indian consumers differ in their lifestyle.

H₂: On the basis of differences in their lifestyle, the Indian consumers can be grouped into segments.

4. Research Design

The present study is based on a survey of Indian consumers. Consumers situated in Delhi and NCR area constitute the sample. The sample was selected on the basis of convenience sampling. In total 400 respondents were approached. The questionnaires were filled personally by approaching the respondents. Of the 400 questionnaires distributed, 283 usable questionnaires were ultimately received, constituting an overall response rate of 70.75 percent. The primary data in the form of the responses of the sampled units were collected through a structured and undisguised questionnaire which is divided into three sections. The questionnaire is based on the borrowed scale items from the studies by Kucukemiroglu¹² and Kaynak and Kara¹⁰. Initially all the scale items used by the aforesaid researchers were listed. In order to make the questionnaire precise, clear, understandable and relevant, both to the Indian context and the present study, some items were deleted and few statements were modified. The final questionnaire was pre-tested on a sample of 20 respondents and the results were found to be positive. Finally, the questionnaire was administered on the remaining sample size. Part-A of the questionnaire contains multiple choice questions relating to the demographic description of the respondents. It studied the variables: age, gender, marital status, education, occupation, income and the frequency of overseas travel. Part-B of the questionnaire contains 51 five-point Likert-type statements to study lifestyle dimensions of Indian consumers. These statements were adapted from the work of Kaynak and Kara¹⁰. Further, to all the five-point type statements, another response category 'not applicable' was added to have the maximum response rate.

4.1 Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents viz., age, gender, marital status, education, occupation, income, and overseas exposure. The age-wise distribution of the sample of 283 respondents shows that most of the respondents belong to the lower age groups. The gender-wise distribution of the sample is found to be uniform across males and females. Majority of respondents belong to the category of unmarried (74.5 percent). This is in conformity with the age-wise distribution of the sample, where young people (15-19 and 20-29 years age groups) accounted for 81.8 percent of the sample. Majority of the respondents have completed schooling (34.1 percent) or are graduates (40.8 percent). Thus, accounting for a total of 74.9 percent of the sample size. The occupational status of the respondents was categorised as student, employed, professional, business, retired, and house wife. Majority of the respondents were in the category of students (69.1 percent). Income dimension was studied as family monthly income rather than per capita income or annual income, which is more relevant in consumer market studies. It is found that most of the respondents belong to high income brackets, viz., family monthly income of more than ₹ 50,000 p.m. constituted 29.6 percent of sample size, income level of ₹ 30,001-50,000 p.m. accounted for 27.4 percent, ₹ 20,001-30,000 p.m. constituted 21.3 percent, ₹ 10,001-20,000 p.m. constituted 14.6 percent and the income level of less than ₹ 10,000 p.m. accounted for 7 percent of the sample.

Table 1	. Profile	of Res	pondents
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Demographic C	Percentage					
Age (years):	15-19	45.2				
	20-29	36.6				
	30-39	3.8				
	40-49					
	50-59	3.8				
	60 and above	1.6				
Gender:	Male	52.9				
	Female	47.1				
Marital Status:	Married	20.7				
	Unmarried	74.5				
	Single (Divorced/Widowed)	4.8				

Education:	Secondary	3.8				
	Senior Secondary	34.1				
	Graduate	40.8				
	Post-graduate	11.1				
	Professional Qualification	10.2				
Occupation:	Student	69.1				
	Employed	16.6				
	Professional					
	Business	3.2				
	Retired	1.3				
	Housewife	3.8				
Income Level:	Less than ₹ 10,000 p.m.	7.0				
₹10,000 p.m	₹ 20,000 p.m.	14.6				
₹ 20,001 p.m	₹ 30,000 p.m.	21.3				
₹ 30,001 p.m	₹ 30,001 p.m ₹ 50,000 p.m.					
More than ₹ 50),000 p.m.	29.6				

5. Results and Analysis

Section B of the questionnaire had 51 statements that studied the lifestyle characteristics of Indian consumers. Factor analysis was performed to identify the lifestyle dimensions. The result of factor analysis is given in Table 2. Bartlett's test of sphericity gives the approximate chisquare statistics as 3.388 which is significant at 0.05 level, thus indicating that the variables are correlated in the population. The value of the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy (KMO-statistic) is 0.63 and is also significant as it is above the threshold limit of 0.50. Thus, factor analysis is considered an appropriate technique for analysing the correlation matrix of variables. Method of a principal component analysis, scree plot and a priori methods were used in tandem to determine minimum number of factors that will account for maximum variance in the data.

Table 2. KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Ade	n Measure of Sampling equacy.	.630
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Chi-Square Statistic	3.388
	Df	1275
	p-value	.000

Principal Component analysis method (Table 3) resulted in 12 factors that explained 50.148 percent of variance. Only those factors with eigen values significantly greater than one was retained. Even the scree plot^a (Figure 1) shows screes in the curve till twelfth factor after



Figure 1. Scree plot.

which the curve is smooth. These twelve factors were then rotated using varimax procedure in order to minimize the number of variables with high loading on a factor, thereby enhancing the interpretability of the factor. Factor 1 was labelled 'group-oriented factor' and explained 5.75 percent of variance. Factors 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were labelled 'leadership factor', 'hygiene factor', 'family-oriented factor, 'inward-oriented factor' and 'health-conscious factor' respectively. They accounted for 4.89, 4.58, 4.4, 4.27 and 4.2 percent of variance respectively. Factors 7 and 8 accounted for 4.12 percent and 4.09 percent of variance respectively. They were labelled 'independent factor' and 'community-oriented factor' respectively. Finally, factors 9, 10, 11 and 12 were referred as 'cost-conscious factor, 'outwards-oriented factor', 'conservative factor' and 'adventurous factor' and these explained 3.91, 3.41, 3.37 and 3.17 percent of variance respectively.

Factor loading (Table 4) results show correlation between lifestyle statements and the 12 lifestyle dimensions. AIO statements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 14 have loading score of more than 0.4 with Factor 1 (group-oriented factor). Lifestyle statements 25, 8, 35, 49, 19 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 2 (leadership factor). Statements 40, 36, 34, 33, 37 have high loading (>0.40) with factor 3 (hygiene factor). AIO statements 23, 22, 18, 24, 21 have good loading (>0.40) with factor 4 (family-oriented factor), Lifestyle statements 7, 6, 47 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 5 (inward-oriented factor). Lifestyle statements

Table 3. Variance Explained by Factors on UsingFactor Analysis

	Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings							
Component	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %					
1	2.933	5.751	5.751					
2	2.491	4.885	10.636					
3	2.334	4.577	15.213					
4	2.242	4.396	19.609					
5	2.177	4.268	23.876					
6	2.142	4.200	28.076					
7	2.100	4.118	32.194					
8	2.086	4.090	36.285					
9	1.995	3.911	40.196					
10	1.739	3.411	43.606					
11	1.718	3.369	46.975					
12	1.618	3.173	50.148					

Extraction Method: Based on Principal Component Analysis.

29, 28, 51 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 6 (health-conscious factor). Lifestyle statements 12, 11, 13 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 7 (independent factor). Lifestyle statements 38, 39, 41, 42 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 8 (community-oriented factor). Lifestyle statements 44, 45, 50 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 9 (cost-conscious factor). Lifestyle statements 27, 32 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 10 (outward-oriented factor). Lifestyle statements 10,

	Component											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lifestyle3	.700	.046	.025	.140	049	053	.019	021	109	.062	.083	.121
Lifestyle4	.611	.207	043	048	.062	.099	076	.168	109	028	180	.189
Lifestyle1	.581	.043	031	.018	.099	.006	.033	.086	.243	003	.122	180
Lifestyle2	.567	039	224	275	063	.278	161	.067	030	035	.064	.019
Lifestyle5	.468	.220	011	044	295	.089	015	.221	033	.072	031	340
Lifestyle26	.445	.031	032	.158	178	112	036	138	.138	.441	148	230
Lifestyle16	.460	.221	.044	020	312	.353	151	252	.113	194	061	164
Lifestyle14	.456	.165	.156	022	189	021	.310	008	.011	292	.065	318
Lifestyle25	.051	.648	129	.091	.011	.106	071	017	.155	.167	156	099
Lifestyle8	.150	.627	027	027	.046	.031	.220	.165	.029	111	.160	081
Lifestyle35	053	.469	.393	.024	.227	.024	157	.058	.169	.189	.130	.154
Lifestyle49	.019	.451	.165	.001	126	.015	039	302	.022	.091	.199	008
Lifestyle19	.109	.449	.070	044	075	.146	.241	.008	.076	134	057	.166
Lifestyle9	.143	.443	125	187	021	.419	.057	.095	168	.094	180	.116
Lifestyle46	.152	.287	130	220	080	.233	100	215	.106	.042	.089	.253
Lifestyle40	075	.066	.606	.137	.068	.095	.004	.258	144	.089	009	.048
Lifestyle36	056	.047	.533	.178	024	.008	.005	035	.204	.172	116	.255
Lifestyle34	.107	.191	.528	.043	.162	.233	.192	032	.157	196	022	059
Lifestyle15	.422	.047	.496	060	072	242	.088	102	.117	067	.047	.176
Lifestyle33	.241	.204	488	.059	.052	062	.117	.115	183	084	.066	.165
Lifestyle37	021	122	.475	.107	.048	046	.090	.182	096	.028	.091	021
Lifestyle23	004	041	.181	.695	.129	060	047	.108	025	109	011	002
Lifestyle22	029	131	.030	.689	017	136	.101	.025	.240	.084	186	031
Lifestyle18	034	.064	003	.516	338	.269	.119	091	.029	.227	.149	.113
Lifestyle24	.061	.334	.144	.455	.250	023	004	.076	278	.059	.045	072
Lifestyle21	.257	.140	.100	.479	.039	239	.144	.070	.206	.006	.010	.263
Lifestyle7	046	.058	.126	.117	.773	.130	044	009	.059	.083	060	050
Lifestyle6	.003	082	039	.051	.711	.037	.056	083	.026	167	.142	.066
Lifestyle47	009	.053	.182	217	.364	.201	.079	.027	.232	116	056	.038
Lifestyle29	.013	.067	.007	071	.035	.651	.058	.030	035	.006	086	.212

Table 4. Factor Loading Rotated Component Matrix

Lifestyle28	.041	.140	.217	071	.147	.559	.068	049	088	043	.063	108
Lifestyle51	130	.011	036	.094	.169	.429	086	.089	.089	426	155	.317
Lifestyle30	.492	003	100	.022	.284	.402	.114	.088	.068	.081	.163	.071
Lifestyle12	015	027	.096	.073	.029	.078	.765	.032	053	.000	.045	001
Lifestyle11	020	.166	012	019	.083	013	.712	.102	.095	.045	.001	.112
Lifestyle13	083	002	.071	.136	127	.079	.520	.062	.389	.073	051	174
Lifestyle39	035	102	.014	.101	104	028	010	.663	046	121	047	112
Lifestyle42	.038	.132	036	023	062	.098	.126	.616	042	.049	.076	.103
Lifestyle38	.169	.033	.141	.071	.015	.061	002	.600	.153	028	084	.099
Lifestyle41	.080	.008	.174	042	.111	144	.064	.466	.156	.211	.071	005
Lifestyle48	012	.048	.148	.005	.058	019	.174	.030	.595	084	111	036
Lifestyle45	.114	006	002	129	.151	055	.013	.159	.507	.064	.380	.211
Lifestyle44	.080	.180	147	.066	.008	.049	023	.137	.498	.050	.368	.068
Lifestyle50	028	.079	.043	.298	.057	140	085	084	.491	.139	113	079
Lifestyle27	001	.122	.124	.040	062	010	.051	.055	.012	.690	.031	.036
Lifestyle17	.132	127	100	.462	322	.083	.268	.091	.039	.478	.292	045
Lifestyle32	.114	.294	198	014	083	126	.256	.043	102	429	.136	.152
Lifestyle10	.133	.180	.037	003	017	.123	.007	.110	.053	063	636	.162
Lifestyle20	.166	.236	.047	086	.052	.017	.070	006	036	027	.570	.052
Lifestyle43	.088	.059	.102	.023	142	.289	273	.244	.211	246	.470	023
Lifestyle31	.039	.031	.113	.003	001	.167	.047	.078	037	060	042	.719

Extraction Method: Based on Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Based on Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

20, 43 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 11 (conservative factor). Lifestyle statements 31 have high loading score (>0.40) with factor 12 (adventurous factor). Lifestyle statement 46 is not significantly loading with any of the factors. Hence, this statement is removed from further analysis. Also, statements 26, 9, 15, 30, 17 are loading on more than one factors, therefore, are also removed. From the above analysis, it is proved that Indian consumers differ in their lifestyles. Therefore, our analysis is consistent with hypothesis H_1 .

After identifying the lifestyle factors, these factors were classified in appropriate segments using cluster analysis. On running cluster analysis, three clusters emerged (Table 5). In the next stage, lifestyle factors were designated to the appropriate cluster using k mean clustering (Table 6). ANOVA results (Table 7) show that except for three lifestyle factors viz., family-oriented factor, inward -oriented factor and adventurous factor, all others were significantly related to the allocated cluster groups. Thus, our analysis lends support to hypothesis H₂.

Table 5.	Number	of Cases	in Each	Cluster
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Cluster	1	17
	2	178
	3	88
Valid	Cases	283

Cluster 1 has lifestyle dimensions categorised as grouporiented, conservative and outward-oriented. These are largely students who are dependent on their parents for finances. Hence, they can be called Nesters, ready to fly.

Cluster 2 has lifestyle dimensions categorised as leadership, hygiene, health-conscious and independent factors. They are well-educated, well-off and settled in life. So, they can be called Opinion leaders.

Cluster 3 has lifestyle dimensions viz., community orientation and cost-conscious factors. They are educated and have reasonable income levels. They can therefore, be called Collectivists seeking value for money.

6. Conclusion and Limitations of the Study

Lifestyle studies enables classification of consumers' behaviour with respect to all areas of life. This further allows grouping of consumers using cluster analysis to produce relevant lifestyle segments¹³. The present study is a step in this direction. Lifestyle statements adapted from the past research were factor analysed. This resulted in 12 prominent lifestyle dimensions for Indian consumers viz., 'group-oriented factor', 'leadership factor', 'hygiene factor', 'family-oriented factor', 'inward-oriented factor', 'community-oriented factor', 'independent factor', 'outwards-oriented factor', 'conservative factor' and 'adventurous factor'. The labels to these factors point towards the key focus of the Indian consumers in their day-to-day lives as reflected in their AIO.

Table 6. Cluster Membership

Case	3 Clusters
Group-oriented factor	1
Leadership factor	2
Hygiene factor	2
Family-oriented factor	3
Inward-oriented factor	1
Health-conscious factor	2
Independent factor	2
Community-oriented factor	3
Cost-conscious factor	3
Outward-oriented factor	1
Conservative factor	1
Adventurous factor	3

Note: 1, 2, 3 denote clusters namely, Nesters, ready to fly;

Opinion leaders; Collectivists seeking value for money respectively.

Cluster analysis was applied to the above lifestyle factors. Three clusters emerged for segmenting Indian consumers on the basis of demographic and lifestyle variables. Cluster 1 comprised young people having no overseas exposure. They were group-oriented, outwardoriented and conservative consumers. This cluster was therefore, labelled as 'Nesters, ready to fly' as at this stage they are influenced by peers and parents but eventually make their own decisions. Marketers can target these young minds with products that show emotional bondage with family members or friends. This can help in getting their acceptance for the product.

	Cluste	r	Error			
	Mean		Mean		F-	р-
	Square	Df	Square	Df	Statistic	value
Group- oriented factor	14.284	2	.857	279	16.664	.000
Leadership factor	8.913	2	.915	279	9.742	.000
Hygiene factor	5.208	2	.955	279	5.455	.001
Family- oriented factor	1.440	2	.995	279	1.447	.229
Inward- oriented factor	1.130	2	.999	279	1.131	.337
Health- conscious factor	13.842	2	.862	279	16.059	.000
Independent factor	9.768	2	.906	279	10.784	.000
Community- oriented factor	8.551	2	.919	279	9.307	.000
Cost- conscious factor	18.481	2	.812	279	22.759	.000
Outward- oriented factor	3.214	2	.976	279	3.292	.021
Conservative factor	5.688	2	.950	279	5.990	.001
Adventurous factor	.788	2	1.002	279	.786	.503

Table 7. ANOVA Results of Cluster Analysis

Cluster 2 consists of consumers who are well-educated, well-off and settled in life. They were also characterised as being healthy, hygiene-conscious, independent decisionmaker and possessing leadership skills. This cluster was therefore, called 'Opinion leaders'. Marketers can target these consumers with innovative products or health and fitness products or products with new and modified uses. These consumers can act as endorsers of these products to the remaining market.

Finally, Cluster 3 are consumers who are educated but with reasonable income level. As a result, they are costconscious consumers. At the same time, they are socially engaged and involved in community activities. They are therefore, labelled as 'Collectivists seeking value for money'. Marketers can target this market with products that ensure community or country welfare (products that highlight 'Made in India' label) or are priced modestly. The lifestyle concept has thus, become the core to segmentation research²¹. Marketing managers can adapt their marketing strategies viz., targeting, positioning, branding, media communication, retailing strategies to the changing lifestyle patterns. Lifestyle data are very useful in market segmentation and in developing country-specific marketing strategy, yet marketers need to be cautious while using lifestyle variables in their studies, as these variables are not as stable as demographic variables.

There are some limitations specific to the present study. Firstly, the study is confined to consumers located in Delhi-NCR. Secondly, the data was obtained using convenience sampling, and hence does not provide adequate representation of all age groups. Further, a larger sample is recommended for a more conclusive study. Future research in this area can examine the influence of lifestyle dimensions on brand choice, product choice and store choice behaviour of Indian consumers.

7. References

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Note

^aA scree plot shows the eigen values on the y-axis and the number of factors on the x-axis. It always displays a downward curve. The point where the slope of the curve is clearly leveling off indicates the number of factors that should be generated by the factor analysis.