

Chapter 3

Apps–Commerce in Emerging Markets: Insights and Future Business Models

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ABSTRACT

The Internet and Apps related technologies are considered as information “super highway” since they are able to connect people, computers, and data to one another. Because of them, a new communication medium has risen, which provides an access to the large flow of information across various broad extensions. As a consequence, there has been a need for understanding the behaviors of online consumers, since Information Technology and its usage have had a massive impact on shopping behaviors as well as the rate of market success. This chapter’s aim will be to sanitize the current understanding of Apps/online consumer behavior to shape Apps marketing strategies and implementations.

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INTRODUCTION

Managers are using consumer decision-making models in order to predict as well as to explain the consumer behaviors, that can act as a basis to make decisions in marketing (Butler & Peppard, 1998). Using the Internet and World Wide Websites (WWW) as communication and promotional tools to perform distribution functions, enabled the marketers to start finding an entirely new world of consumer purchasing behavior opportunities (Khan, 2010). Online shopping along with electronic retailing over the Internet came into existence back in 1994 (Chai Har et al., 2011; Varadarajan et al., 2010) and a revolution has been building up on marketing principals for many years. This standpoint made some dramatic alterations to the conventional ways of viewing the communication media together with advertising. The Internet and Apps related technologies are considered as information “super highway” since they are able to connect people, computers, and data to one another. Because of them, a new communication medium has risen, which provides an access to the large flow of information across various broad extensions (Akman & Mishra, 2010). The Internet, which is a gigantic universal network, is a revolution consisting of packet-switched computer net-works that are interconnected. The Internet can be named as a trendy marketing medium with the potential to make radical transformations to the ways corporations conduct their businesses and respond to their customers (Hoffman, 1996). During the past decade, the Internet has fundamentally transformed how retailers are competing in the marketplace. According to recent reports by Akman & Mishra (2010), the number of Internet users has reached to 1412 million world-wide. In Asia, as a continent, the rapid growth of the economy has resulted in a higher Internet penetration in the past few years (Muhammad Najib et al., 2010). As an instance, A National Computer Board survey, which was conducted among 1500 citizens of Singapore, has shown that 2% of Singaporeans who are more than 18-year-old adults, actually purchased some items online and all of them were very satisfied with their purchases (Sim & Koi, 2002). From an economic perspective, many countries in Asia are well defined as emerging markets, which explain the improvement of IT infrastructure and development. In this study, Malaysia, as one of the emerging markets, will be the focus of the research.

Online Markets and E-Commerce

Previous research on electronic commerce found out that behavioral intentions in online shoppers were dissimilar to the intentions of traditional offline shoppers when it came to markets (Ganesh et al., 2010). One area, which has been receiving a growing importance, is how online consumers are interacting with marketers in a cyber environment in parallel with retailing e-commerce (O’Cass & Fenech, 2003).

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