

# Determinants of Purchase Intention: An Interpretive Structural Modelling Approach

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## Abstract

In the present paper, the factors which impact consumer behavior are explored through extensive literature review. Also, common determinants of online and offline consumer behavior are identified. Subsequently, ISM approach is used to find the inter-relationship among these factors. Finally, ISM model depicting this interrelationship is developed and MICMAC analysis is performed to categorize factors into clusters depending on their drive and dependence power. Identified factors common to both offline and online buying behavior include convenience, promotion, availability, brand image, demography, safety, quality, word of mouth and price. ISM reveals that promotion, brand image, demography, quality and price are the linking factors with strong dependence and driving power. Additionally, convenience, availability and safety have emerged as the independent factors with strong driving power and weak dependence power.

**Keywords:** Offline buying, online buying, Determinants, ISM (Interpretive structural modelling), MICMAC

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## 1. Introduction

Increase in the number of e-commerce websites has led to a steep rise in global online shopping. At the same time, the significance of offline shopping cannot be overlooked. This paper attempts to find factors that affect consumer behavior while buying products and services offline as well as online. Key objectives of this paper are (a.) to find factors which are common to both offline and online shopping and (b.) to develop an interrelationship among these factors. Eight factors are considered for study. These include convenience, promotion, availability, brand image, demography, safety, quality and price. Inter-relationship among these factors is analyzed through ISM approach. Further, the factors are classified on the basis of driving and dependence power through MICMAC analysis.

In the remainder paper, factors affecting offline and online buying behavior from literature are given in sections 2 and 3 respectively. Section 4 depicts the diagrammatic representation of offline and online factors with the clubbing of common factors and their references/sources. Section 5 depicts the ISM model generation and in Section 6, MICMAC analysis is performed. The conclusion and limitations are provided in sections 7 and 8 respectively.

## 2. Offline buying behavior

Offline purchase is a conventional way of purchasing products and undertaking services by directly visiting the store/shop or vendor.

Sethi, Inderjeet (2018) have explored that the most significant factors affecting consumer behavior in telecom industry includes promotion, social class, perception, religion. As per Legeza & Brunner (2019) the major social factors for buying eco-intelligent products are employment status and store location. Rana, Jyoti & Paul, Justin (2017) found that the factors which influence a consumer to buy organic products include health consciousness, expectation of wellbeing, quality and safety, willingness to pay, fashion trend, social consciousness and found that lack of promotion and distribution affects the presence of green products in developing countries. Shende, Vikram (2014) indicated that disposable income is the most influential factor for an automobile passenger car customer. Chopra (2014) conducted a study on factors influencing consumer behavior for cosmetic products and found that promotional strategy, festive offer discount, availability, billing speed and ambience to be most significant. Diallo et al. (2013) concluded that value consciousness to be major factor impacting consumer behavior towards store brand in French market. Lakshmi, Niharika, Lahari (2017) conducted a study to find the impact of gender on consumer purchasing behavior and the findings indicated that gender significantly influence consumer purchasing behavior. Kumar, John, Senith (2014) revealed that there existed significant differences among income level and behavior dimensions like social and cultural factors but no significant differences existed of income level with personal and psychological factors. Rengarajan, et al. (2014) indicated that income level is the most influential factor affecting consumer behavior for selected brands of milk products.

Raj et al. (2013) found out that price and word of mouth are significant factors affecting consumer brand preference for SUV's and MUV's. Furaiji et al. (2012) established that cultural, social, personal, psychological variable weakly associate to consumer behavior. Prasad (2014) found out that consumers give more preference to latest design and availability of options and less preference to advertisement and trust. Mittal (2016) found that product features, social status and family are strongly associated with consumer buying behavior in Indian white goods industry. Kumar & Namavaram (2016) concluded that price consciousness and coupon redemption are positively related to consumer behavior for selection of cab services. Horsu & Solomon (2015) found out that comfort, affordability, reliability, and continuous service significantly impact customer satisfaction in minicab taxi services. Sata, Mesay (2013) revealed that price is the most influential factor followed by product features and durability while buying mobile phones. Peng, L et al. (2014) found perceived ease of use, perceived usefulness, compatibility, subjective norms, and perceived risk as key factors affecting consumer to avail call taxi app services. Also, durability, brand image strongly influence consumer buying behavior of mobile phone devices while after sales services and social influences weakly impact mobile phone devices purchase. Frank and Agnes (2018) revealed that the factors affecting purchase behavior for Patanjali brand in Mangalore are effective advertisement, best quality, reasonable price, wide range of products, brand image, attractive packaging, sales promotion and Baba Ramdev as brand ambassador. Kaveri & William (2015) concluded that retailer's scheme and services are influential factors determining consumer behavior toward gold jewelry.

According to Kumar et al. (2017), major factors impacting consumer satisfaction in food outlets are hygiene, cleanliness, healthy food, service quality and physical environment. Pecotic et al.(2014) found that furniture comfort, music style and condition of tableware are most influential factors affecting customer satisfaction for interior design. Olise, et al. (2015) revealed using classic belief attitude behavior intention model that service quality, perceived value, environment, customer demographics and modernity to be significant factors influencing customer patronage of fast food restaurant. Rashid, Abdullah, Yusuf (2014) concluded that food served hot and fresh and correct and complete order are the factors considered important for customer satisfaction among gen Y for fast food restaurant in Malaysia. Thabiso & Sukdeo (2018) found that quality, features and price are the major factors affecting buying behavior for durable products while age does not have any significant impact. Altekar & Keskar (2014) found out that style, Advertising, family members, friends and relatives, financing agency are the most influential factors in buying decision for durable products. Gomathy & Devi (2015) found that consumer purchase gold for investment purpose which may help them during the emergency time. Yonas, Rasheed, Zia (2015) conducted a study to find the major factors influencing consumer purchase intention and found that customer knowledge, celebrity endorsement and product packaging has significant influence on consumer purchase intention whereas perceived value does not have any impact on consumer purchase intention. Khuong & Duyen (2016) found out that self-image has the strongest influence other factors being skin health attention, body attraction, age and ageing process has moderate influence on consumer purchase decision for men's skin care products.

Koshy Ligo & Manohar S John (2017) conducted a study to find factors influencing face care products among youth and found out that male customers give more importance to brand image, advertisement, and price respectively. SS Anjana (2018) found that quality and price are amongst the strongest factors influencing customer to buy cosmetic products. Kumar et al. (2014) found that dimensions like social, cultural are the factors influencing consumers to purchase cosmetic products. Showrav et al. (2018) found three major factors influencing consumer behavior for buying cosmetic products in Dhaka city to be consumer perception, external influence and psychological motives (includes looking beautiful, opposite gender and being socially responsible). Zulqarnain et al.(2015) conducted a study in selecting retail stores for grocery shopping and found that convenience, variety, prices, product quality and location are the most significant factor. Singh, Surabhi (2018) conducted a study to find the consumer buying behavior for buying perfume in India and found that fragrance as the most significant factor. Srivastava, Shalini (2013) performed a research to understand the factors affecting buying behavior of consumers for FMCG products and found that reliability and product attributes play a very significant role for low segment category of people in India. On the other hand, Chatterjee (2018) found co-branding, liberalization of economy to be having highest value for consumer buying motives in FMCG sector among advertising strategy, brand influence, co-branding, retail loyalty products, visual merchandising etc. According to Dande,R et al.(2018) factors that plays a major role for patient in selection of a dental hospital and dentist include distance from home to clinic, recommendations, word of mouth, behavior and communication skills of doctor and fame of doctor. Richard et al. (2016) explored the factors which a consumer finds significant while selecting a hotel and concludes that reviews of friend, cost effectiveness, building professional relationship, location and security aspect and religion under cultural factor plays a significant role. Zulqarnain et al.(2015) found that the factors which customer takes into account while choosing a retail store for grocery shopping appeared to be quality, variety and location. Dubey et al.(2018) conducted a study of Vishal mega mart retail store to know the factors that consumer takes into account while shopping there and found that Vishal merchandising has a strong impact on impulse buying of shopper, layout of store as well as services offered by employees played an important role in buying products

from Vishal mega mart.

### 3. Online Buying Behavior

Online shopping is a form of buying goods and availing services through internet without actually visiting the stores.

Chincholkar & Sonwaney (2017) found that the most significant factors which consumer consider while selecting a website for shopping are availability and quality of products/services and also there is no significant difference existed between men's and women's attitude towards website.

Shanathi, Kannaiah (2015) revealed that price is the most significant factor impacting consumer to buy online followed by security, guarantees and warranties. According to Vikash & Kumar (2017) quality, convenience, satisfaction, availability of products, security and privacy, quickness, attractive, flexibility, spatial convenience and awareness are the most significant factors influencing consumer to buy online. Vadivu (2015) found that variety, quick service and reduced price are the most influential factors for consumer to buy online. Islam, Md. Shariful (2015) proposed a conceptual model consisting of independent variable as financial risks, convenience risks, non-delivery risk, infrastructural variables, return policy, attitude and subjective norms whereas dependent variables being attitude, online shopping behavior. The findings are such that financial risks and non-delivery risks have a negative effect on consumer attitude for online buying behavior. Nagra, Gopal (2013) concluded that age, gender, income, family size, marital status has a positive impact on online shopping behavior of consumers. According to Abdullah et al. (2016) the most influential factors for consumer buying stimuli are perceived ease of use, vendors characteristics, perceived usefulness and website design. Vaghela, Pratiksinh (2016) revealed that factors such as perceived ease of use, perceived usefulness, website design are the most influential factors affecting online shopping behavior of consumer. Further it is found out that there is no significant difference existed between male and female purchase behavior. Raunaque, Zeeshan, Imam (2016) concluded that easy return and refund policy, money back guarantee are among the factors to improve customer trust and hence the perception towards online shopping. Deshmukh & Sanskrity (2016) revealed that demographic factors, product features, website design has the most significant influence on consumer to buy online. Singh et al. (2016) concluded that Gen Y has a positive bend towards online shopping and they prefer to shop anytime they feel like. Dange & Kumar (2012) proposed a model factor, filtering element and filtered buying behavior (FFF). Factor (internal and external) make consumer to get into filtering elements (security concerns, privacy concerns, trust) which leads to filtered buying. Rao et al. (2018) found the factors which women consider important while purchasing online are ease of use, convenience, security, utility, time effectiveness, outbound logistics and feedback. Bauboniene & Guleviciute (2015) revealed that the major factors impacting consumers to do online shopping are convenience, simple to access and relatively better prices. Mahalaxmi & Ranjith (2016) concluded that the consumers are aware of digital marketing and give preference to digital channels to purchase any types of products. Rai (2018) revealed that consumer prefer to use digital channels to buy any sought of products irrespective of their monthly income.

Prasath & Yaganathen (2018) concluded that SMM (social media marketing) as an independent variable has a positive and linear relationship with CBDM (consumer buying decision making) the dependent variable. Yapa (2017) conducted a study to find the effect of independent variables i.e. (users generated communication and firms generated communication) on dependent variables i.e. Brand awareness. Results stated that independent variables have positive correlation with dependent variables. Ioanas & Stoica (2014) concluded that social media has a positive influence on online buying behavior of consumers. Emir et al. (2016) with the aid of stimulus-Organism-Response model concluded that while booking hotel online consumer consider stimuli as independent variables (information quality, perceived interactivity, safety and privacy, price and promotion and e-word of mouth) expected to influence perceived value (organism) which will lead them to book hotel online (response). Ahmed et al. (2018) concluded that perceived benefits, domain specific innovativeness and shopping orientation had significant and positive relation with consumer buying behavior. Whereas Jadhav & Khanna (2016) conducted a study among college students to know the online buying behavior and found that availability, low price, promotions, comparison, convenience, customer service, ease of use, attitude, time consciousness, trust and variety seeking to be the most influential factors considered for online purchase. Akbar et al. (2017) revealed that quality is the most significant factor followed by convenience and trust while promotion did not have any significant relationship with consumer behavior. Hong & Deng (2018) conducted a study to know the factors affecting trust in online healthcare services and concluded that among three kinds of online healthcare services information search requires less amount of trust using online appointment requires moderate level of trust whereas online consultation requires the highest level of trust. Santaso, Bidyati, Hendar (2019) revealed that hedonic motivation does not play a significant role in online purchase behavior whereas trust, website quality and design play a significant role in purchase intention of customers. Adnan, Hooria (2014) revealed that perceived advantages and psychological factors (trust and security concerns) have a positive influence on consumer buying behavior whereas perceived risk impact consumer buying negatively and website design and hedonic motivation were found to be insignificant. Ofori, Boakye & Narteh (2016) conducted a study to find factors which influence consumer loyalty

towards 3G mobile data service provider and found corporate image, service quality, trust, satisfaction and loyalty are the major factors. Soomro et al. (2012) concluded that ease of booking, e-booking and clearing time to be most significant factors amongst service quality, ease of online booking, boarding and clearing time for preferences in airline industry.

#### 4. Factors affecting offline and online buying behavior

In the above fig. the factors affecting offline buying behavior of consumers are shown on the left-hand side while factors affecting online buying behavior are shown on the right-hand side. Factors in the middle are common to both offline and online buying behavior . These factors are convenience, promotion, availability, word of mouth, demography, safety, quality and price.

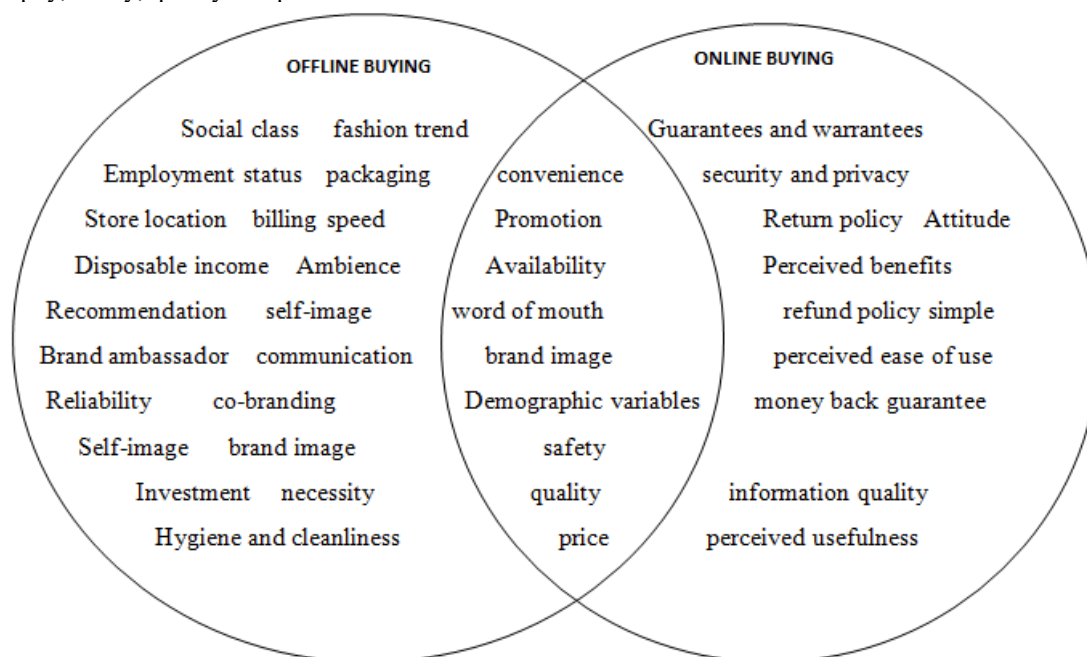


Fig 1: Offline vs. Online Buying Behavior

#### 4: Factors and their references

S. No	Factors	References/Sources
1	Convenience	Soorma et al. (2012), Vikash and Kumar (2017), Islam (2015), Madasu and Rao (2018), Mahalaxmi and Ranjith (2016), Jadhav et al. (2016)
2	Promotion	Frank (2018), Jonas and Stoica (2014), Jadhav et al. (2016)
3	Availability	Chopra (2014), Prasad (2014), Chincholkar and Sonwaney (2017)
4	Brand Image	Peng et al. (2014), Frank (2018), Koshy and Manohar (2017)
5	Demography	Lakshmi et al. (2017), Kumar et al. (2014), Rengarajan (2014), Nagra (2013), Deshmukh and Sanskrity (2016)
6	Safety	Rana and Paul (2017), Vikash and Kumar (2017)
7	Quality	Rana and Paul (2017), Ofori and Norteh (2016), Frank (2018), Kumar et al. (2017), Olise (2015), Zulqarnain (2015), Chincholkar and Sonwaney (2017), Vikash and Kumar (2017)
8	Price	Kumar and Namavaram (2016), Sata (2013), Koshy and Manohar (2017), Zulqarnain (2015), Vadivu (2015), Mahalaxmi and Ranjith (2016), Jadhav et al. (2016)

#### 4. ISM Approach

ISM (Interpretive structural modelling) is defined as a system which aims at providing assistance to humans by transforming unclear vague mental models to a well-defined model. The model so formed transforms the complex problem or issue to a well-designed pattern. ISM is a technique in which a cluster of variables or factors which are directly or indirectly related are structured into a systematic model. ISM approach is originally propounded by Warfield (1974).

The steps involved in ISM are given below:

**Step 1: Identification of factors**

The first step in ISM is to identify the factors which pertain to a situation or issue. In the present paper the various factors which are common in online as well as offline shopping are extracted from the literature. Eight factors taken for study are convenience, promotion, availability, brand image, demography, safety, quality and price.

**Step 2: Development of SSIM (Structural self-interaction matrix)**

The next step in ISM is to do a pairwise comparison by developing a VAXO table. For this a group of experts is consulted from industry or academia. The VAXO table denotes the inter-relationship between factors (i and j) as shown in table 2 where:

- V depicts that factor i influences factor j
- A depicts that factor j influences factor i
- X depicts that both i and j influence each other
- O depicts that both i and j are unrelated

Pairwise comparison of all the eight factors is done with the help of a group of experts. About half of the table is left blank as the pairwise comparison of these factors is already done in the other half part.

**Step 3: Development of Initial Reachability Matrix**

SSIM matrix in this step is transformed into reachability matrix by converting the values of SSIM into 1's and 0's as shown in table 3

- If (i, j) entry in SSIM is V then it becomes 1 and if (j, i) is V then it becomes 0
- If (i, j) entry in SSIM is A then it becomes 0 and if (j, i) is A then it becomes 1
- If (i, j) entry in SSIM is X then it becomes 1 and if (j, i) is X then also it becomes 1
- If (i, j) entry in SSIM is O then it becomes 0 and if (j, i) is O then also it becomes 0

The factors of SSIM in this step are numbered from 1 to 8 and assigned 0's and 1's in both directions (i, j) and (j, i), and now the entire table is filled.

**Step 4: Development of final Reachability Matrix**

After preparing the initial reachability matrix its transitivity is checked and 1\* is used in place of 0's where there is error. Then a final reachability matrix is prepared as shown in table 4. Transitivity indicates if factor 1 is related to 2 and factor 2 to 3 then it means 1 is related to 3.

**Step 5: Partitioning the final reachability matrix**

In this step the partitioning of final reachability matrix is done by assessing reachability sets and antecedent sets for each factor. Reachability sets include all the factors which are present in the row of the given factor, it depicts all the factors on which that particular factor is dependent. The antecedent sets include all the factors which are there in the column of that particular factor, it depicts all the factors which that particular factor drives. Intersection sets depict all the common factors of the reachability and antecedent sets. If the reachability set and intersection set are same then those factors occupy the first level and then all those factors are removed to find the next subsequent levels. In our case there are 5 factors in the first level of partitioning present in iteration 1, which are 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 they occupy first level in the hierarchy and then these are removed from all three sets that is reachability set, antecedent set and intersection set in the next level partitioning, now the factors left are 1, 3 and 6 in which reachability set is same as intersection set and all three occupy 2<sup>nd</sup> level in the hierarchy. The level of partitioning comes out to be two only as the numbers of factors are limited.

**Step 6: Development of conical matrix**

A conical matrix is prepared from the reachability matrix by clubbing together the factors of partition levels. Shown in table 5

**Step 7: Development of ISM model**

An ISM model is developed on the basis of level partitioning where the first level contains all linking factors which are dependent on each other and also drive each other as present on left side of fig 2. And on the right side of same fig. are independent factors which are convenience, availability and safety, they are not dependent on each other but they help in driving others. In this model independent factors drive linking factors.



Table 2. SSIM

	Price	Quality	Safety	Demography	Brand Image	Availability	Promotion	Convenience
Convenience	O	O	O	V	O	O	O	X
Promotion	V	O	O	X	X	A	X	
Availability	V	O	O	O	O	X		
Brand Image	V	V	O	X	X			
Demography	X	X	A	X				
Safety	O	V	X					
Quality	V	X						
Price	X							

Table 3. Initial Reachability Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
4	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
5	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
6	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
7	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Table 4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	driving power
1	1	1*	0	1*	1	0	1*	1*	6
2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1*	1	5
3	0	1	1	1*	1*	0	0	1	5
4	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	5
5	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	5
6	0	1*	0	1*	1	1	1	1*	6
7	0	1*	0	1*	1	0	1	1	5
8	0	1*	0	1*	1	0	1*	1	5
dependence power	1	8	1	8	8	1	7	8	

Iteration I

Factors	Reachability Set	Antecedent Set	Intersection Set	Level
1	124578		1	1
2	24578		12345678	I
3	23458		3	3
4	24578		12345678	I
5	24578		12345678	I
6	245678		6	6
7	24578		1245678	I
8	24578		12345678	I

Iteration 2.

Factors	Reachability Set	Antecedent Set	Intersection Set	Level
1		1	1	I
3		3	3	II
6		6	6	II

Table 5.

	2	4	5	7	8	1	3	6
2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
4	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
5	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
7	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
8	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
3	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
6	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1

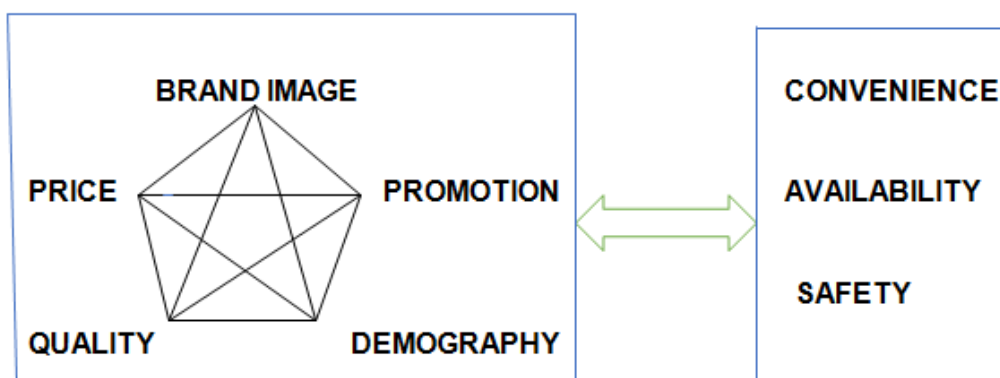


Fig 2 . An ISM model of purchase determinants

### 5. MICMAC Analysis

Matrice d' impact Croises-multiplication applique (cross -impact matrix multiplication to classification) is abbreviated as MICMAC analysis. Based on driving power and dependence power factors can be classified into 4 categories :

1. Autonomous – the factors which have weak drive power as well as weak dependence power are classified as autonomous factors.
2. Dependent -the factors with strong dependence power but weak driving power are classified as dependent factors.
3. Linkage- The factors with strong dependence as well as driving power are classified under linkage factors.
4. Independent factors- the factors with weak dependence power but strong driving power are classified as independent factors.

#### Driving power

8								
7								
6	1,6							
5	3					7		2,4,5,8
4								
3								
2								
1								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

#### Dependence power

All the eight factors in MICMAC analysis are placed on the basis of their dependence and driving power in the four quadrants. Factor 2,4,5,7 and 8 occupies place in third quadrant and hence are categorized as linking factors they are dependent on each other and also drive each other. Factor 1,3 and 6 occupies place in 4<sup>th</sup> quadrant and are categorized as independent factors, they are not dependent on any other factors but all of them drive factor 2,4 ,5 ,7 and 8.

### 6. Conclusion

The major objectives of this paper are to find out the factors which are common to both online as well as offline buying behavior and to establish an interrelationship among these factors. To cater to this requirement, an ISM

model is developed with two levels of partitioning, in the first level there are five factors which are promotion, brand image, demography, quality and price. These factors are categorized as linking factors with strong dependence and drive power. Any action on any of these factors will affect other. Further these factors are influenced by the next level factors of partitioning. On the next level of partitioning there are three factors which are convenience, availability and safety. These factors have strong drive power and weak dependence power. They have influence on other factors. Further there are no factors in the quadrant 1 and 2 which means there are no autonomous factors, which are disconnected from the whole system and no dependent factors which are just dependent on others but does not drive others. The ISM model so developed in this paper acts as a tool for marketer to understand and identify the factors of purchase determinants as well as it will serve as literature for future researches in similar area. The ISM model so formed has not been statistically validated.

## 7. Limitation

Some of the important research papers might have been left out for literature review. If the number of factors taken for developing ISM model have been more then the more level of partitioning could have be possible. Further such ISM model could be developed for offline and online buying behavior as well.

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