

## The effects of firm's innovation on customer's loyalty: A case study of Saigon COOP

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### ABSTRACT

Identifying how the innovation affects the customer's loyalty via the consumer perceived value and customer satisfactions from products or services provided by the Coopmart Retailers System in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam is the purpose of this search. This research also draws some suggestions for the firm's future development. The research was conducted through 2 phases: a qualitative pilot study and quantitative analysis. The pilot study was conducted with 5 people who are working in Coopmart as department heads, deputy heads, and managers with at least 10 years' experience. The qualitative survey will be distributed in the Ho Chi Minh City Coopmart system's customers with member cards where 291 valid surveys were qualified for further analysis. This research's insight is the impacts of innovation on the consumer perceived value, which has few focuses from previous studies. The outcome of the research has shown different aspects of the innovation to the consumer perceived value and customer satisfactions.

### 1. Introduction

Reported by the General Statistics Office of Vietnam, the retail sector contributes over 14% total GDP of Vietnam and this field is one of the most attractive fields that having an international investment, which is supported by the most recent annual report of Vietcombank Securities (Linh Nga, 2019). Also in their report, the Merge and Acquisitions contracts (M&A) in Vietnam market in 2005 (Ha Thu, 2019). Compared to the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Vietnam, many big supermarkets and convenience stores have failed on gaining customers' loyalty and lost their markets in Vietnam such as Metro, Maximart, Fivimart, Citimart (Ha Thu, 2018). Surviving in the battle of gaining customers' trust, Saigon Coop recently celebrated its 30-years-business and the 23 years on the foundation of Coopmart supermarket system to supply the needs of Vietnamese people on buying daily consumed products (Minh Thang, 2019; SaigonCoop, 2019). According to Saigon Coop, the main key for their success is the flexibly operating and innovating the system based on the continuously updating the market's trends and concentrating in consumers' needs (Coopmart, 2017). However, to be adapted to the world's changes earning customers' loyalty and their interests and satisfactions from commercial markets must be carefully considered. There are times

many big corporations fail to continue their businesses smoothly or sometimes got bankrupted when fails to achieve customers' loyalty and satisfaction such as Nokia, Yahoo, United Airlines, Sony and so on (Cox & Rodionova, 2017; Davies & Thompson, 2014; Hof, 2012; Minds, 2018). Once again, it is important to earn customer satisfaction as well as customer's loyalty to survive the competition in the globalization era. There are times wrong decisions in a business move or failed to innovate have shown consequences to the business despite significant good reputations and customer satisfactions such as the Coca Cola, Blockbuster, and Compaq's failures (Goh, 2017; Smith, 2013). Thus, it is important to know innovation moves ensuring the catch on customer satisfactions and their loyalties guaranteeing the firms' future development, which is also the aims for Coopmart as well as the main focus of this study. In this paper, we aim to evaluate the effect of innovative activities on the consumer perceived values in addition to their satisfaction and loyalty. Moreover, this paper tries to research the addressed questions: (1) Which factors represent the corporation's innovation activities? (2) How innovation factors could affect the consumer perceived value, satisfaction, and loyalty to the corporation? Then this paper could suggest some managerial implications for enhancing innovated activities of the corporation.

## **2. Literature review**

### **2.1. Background theory: Resource-based view theory and innovation**

Resource-based theory is an approach to increase the competitive advantage to get firm performance by focusing on resources (Wernerfelt, 1984). Barney (1991) argues that the firm could look inside the company to find the sources of competitive advantage instead of looking at a competitive environment for it. Competitive advantage can be gained by offering clients with value, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable, called VRIN (Eisenhardt & Martin, 2000). Resource-based theory is expanding in the market and forms the competitive advantage and business performance of the firm. Thus, innovation is a way to maximize internal resources. By doing that, the company has increased its development in terms of business, market, and customer aspects.

According to Fontana (2011), innovation aims to make the competitive advantage of firms. In terms of competitiveness, innovation helps the firms in sustaining a pattern of continuous changes in the company and how that offering is created and delivered. Innovation is an important factor to achieve the business performance of firms, markets, and customers (Gamal, Salah, & Elrayyes, 2011).

### **2.2. Study concept**

#### **2.2.1. Innovation**

There are various definitions of innovation, which is recognized as a key factor for the corporations' development (Schumpeter & Opie, 1934; Sundbo, 1997). Schumpeter and Opie (1934) defined innovation as the novel actions that combining the existing capacities to form new things include products, methods, processes, and other things that involve the economic sphere as well as commercial practice. Also, Vaccaro, Parente, and Veloso (2010) rephrased the ability that a firm can adapt to the needs of the market as the "innovation performances". In supporting the precedent views, YuSheng and Ibrahim (2019) emphasized innovation as the ability for exploring, developing, and implementing new moves for the operation of the organization. To sum up, innovation is *the processes of looking for new approaches, quality boosting, and findings in both ways of process functioning as well as products for satisfying the needs of markets and gaining both customers' loyalty and perceived values*, which also defines how innovation is addressed in this search.

When classifying the categories of innovation, Burdon, Mooney, and Al-Kilidar (2015) remarked Foster and Kaplan's work on innovation's benchmarks include "Incremental innovation", "Radical innovation", and "Transformation innovation" (Burdon et al., 2015; Foster & Kaplan, 2011). Later, 4 main dimensions that generally categorized the innovation on its specific operating fields include "Product/service innovation, process innovation, market innovation and organizational innovation" (Oecd, 2005; YuSheng & Ibrahim, 2019). However, these dimensions recently updated where innovation is divided into "Product Innovation" and "Business Process Innovation" with 6 addressed subcategories for describing Business Process Innovation (OECD & Eurostat, 2018). In the investigating topic, the main key factors of the problem are *the incremental innovation in business process innovation with the subcategories are the updates in "marketing and sales" and part of improvements in "production of goods and service"*. In detail, the innovation key factors in this paper include the innovations in Marketing, Products/Services, and Social Media.

### 2.2.2. *Customers' satisfaction, loyalty, and consumers perceived value*

Many scholars often refer satisfaction as the degree that the customers' expectations fit with the quality and performance of the provided products/services that they received and it is marked as one of the most important core factors, the key of success, the marketing field's motto, and goal for firms' future development (E. W. Anderson & Sullivan, 1993; Kotler & Keller, 2003; Swan & Oliver, 1989). It is believed that customer satisfaction will have a positive effect on repurchasing behaviors on the products or services offered by a specific provider (Chitturi, Raghunathan, & Mahajan, 2008; Mittal & Kamakura, 2001), which was found to be the basis proof for addressing customer's loyalty (Mittal & Kamakura, 2001; Schneider & Bowen, 1999), and boosting the firm's image (Hallencreutz & Parmler, 2019; Liat, Mansori, & Huei, 2014). The key drivers of customer satisfactions are believed as "perceived quality, perceived value, and customer expectations" (Cronin. Jr & Taylor, 1992; Sivadas & Baker-Prewitt, 2000) and be measured by the developed indexes reflecting "National Customer Satisfaction dimensions" in various countries (E. W. Anderson, Fornell, & Lehmann, 1994; Fornell, Johnson, Anderson, Cha, & Bryant, 1996). Thus, the hypotheses for investigating the positive and direct impacts of products and services related innovation, as well as consumer perceived values on customers' satisfaction are proposed, which is *the level of customer's positive emotional activities toward specific products/services or branches* in this context. This paper also tests the impact of customer satisfactions on their loyalty to reconfirm the positive direct impact.

Being recorded as one of the key factors for customer's innovation, consumer perceived values is addressed as *the overall evaluation and consideration of consumers in the trade-offs between received benefits and costs when purchasing for a product or service*, which also the definition of consumer perceived value used in this search (Lindgreen & Wynstra, 2005; Zeithaml, 1988). The importance of consumer perceived value has been recorded many times, however, most studies address the loyalty as the result of high delighted level thanks to high perceived value without investigating the direct impact of consumer perceived value to customer's loyalty (Fornell et al., 1996; Türkyılmaz & Özkan, 2007). Also, although there are searches about the effects of innovation on consumers' perceived value (S. J. Kim, Kim, & Choi, 2019; Yang & Peterson, 2004), this impact still has low attraction from scholars compared to other searches in the same field. Thus, this search aims to study the effects of consumer perceived value with innovation factors on customer loyalty, which is the insight of this research.

Customer's loyalty is believed to have a significant tie with the customer satisfactions, which have been tested many times (Mittal & Kamakura, 2001; Selnes, 1993), and identified as the high level in customers' preferable in repurchasing products/services compared to the firm's competitors despite the situation (Kursunluoglu, 2014; Oliver Richard, 1997). Martensen, Gronholdt, and Kristensen (2000) addressed four keys that result in the customer's loyalty include: the repurchase behavior, price's changes acceptance, high tendency level in a recommendation, and the resistance to firms' competitors' offers, which is confirmed by many scholars (Auh, Bell, McLeod, & Shih, 2007; Fečiková, 2004). Hence, the potential value from the customer's loyalty is limitless for the firm's growth. In this context, loyalty is defined as *the high level of customer's favorable in supporting a specific branch's offered products/services besides the neglect of their competitors' offers*.

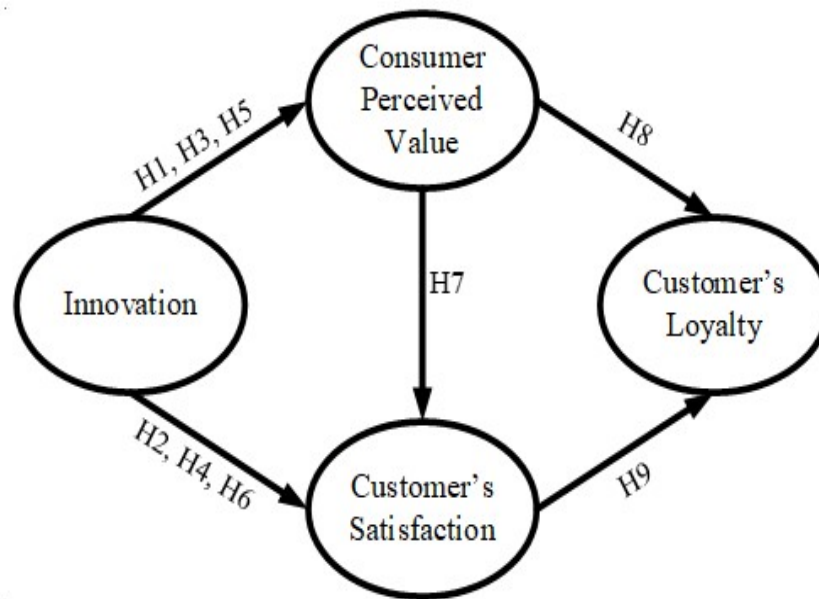
### *2.2.3. The relationships among innovation, customers' satisfaction, loyalty, and consumers perceived value*

The relationships among innovation and factors represented for customers' purchasing habits and behaviors have been conducted many times:

Hussain (2016) found the positive impact relationships between the service quality and perceived value to customer satisfaction and brand loyalty, where both of them can be used to predict the future state of customer's brand loyalty as well as customer satisfaction. This study also implies the prediction of brand loyalty from customer satisfaction. Moreover, Hussain's service quality can be identified as our study's product/service innovation factor. Also, a strong impact between service quality and customer loyalty is addressed in the search of Liu, Lee, and Hung (2017) in both direct and indirect ways through customer satisfaction channels where customer satisfaction is believed to have a strong effect on customer's loyalty in this search.

When investigating the impacts among the perceived service quality, customer satisfaction, revisit intentions, further recommendation, and perceived advantage in re-purchasing services, Ažman and Gomišček (2015) confirmed the positive and non-linear in the direct impact relationship from the service quality to the customer satisfaction and later the customer satisfaction will impact the customer's loyalty through the repurchase habit, word-of-mouth advertisement, and revisit behavior. In addition to this, Luarn and Lin (2003) addressed a strong influence from customer satisfaction and perceived values to customer's loyalty behavior. Furthermore, YuSheng and Ibrahim (2019)'s study clarifies the tight impacts of the service innovation on customer satisfaction and the customer's loyalty.

Mahmoud, Hinson, and Anim (2018) investigated the effects between the innovation factors include concept, process, and technological system to customer value creation and customer satisfaction. The research found that two factors affect customer satisfaction by the service concept and service process, while the technological aspects were denied to have impacts on the customer satisfaction and pointed out that service innovation has significant impacts on customer satisfaction with and without customer value creation. Simon and Petnji Yaya (2012) in the study of system integration, innovation, and customer satisfaction relationships also drive a positive and direct effect from marketing innovation to customer satisfaction, while denying the impacts between a process innovation and organizational innovation to customer satisfaction.



**Figure 1.** Proposed research model

Although many studies have been conducted before about the innovation factors, consumer perceived value, customer satisfaction, and customer's loyalty, however, the studies about the details in innovation still be an insightful search for science and there are very few searches about the impact of social media innovation to other factors. Furthermore, the impacts from innovation factors to consumer perceived value, although been researched many times, but still not be recorded as the main concern from scholars. Thus, the following hypotheses are developed in this context and its proposed model is shown in Figure 1 and listed below:

- H1: Marketing innovation has a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value*
- H2: Marketing innovation has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions*
- H3: Product innovation has a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value*
- H4: Product innovation has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions*
- H5: Social media innovation has a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value*
- H6: Social media innovation has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions*
- H7: Consumer perceived value has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions*
- H8: Consumer perceived value has a positive direct impact on customer's loyalty*
- H9: Customer satisfactions has a positive direct impact on customer's loyalty*

### **3. Methodology**

The research was divided into two phases in which the first phase was the pilot study with qualitative analysis by face to face interview in a group within 90 minutes with 5 employees for the scale selection and validation for being suited with the retail's field of study. They are working in Coopmart system at the middle and senior management level with at least 10 years' experience as department heads, deputy heads, and managers. At first, there are 29 variables were suggested

for the survey, which later were revised and reduced to 27 variables, and divided into 6 factors with measurement is described in Table 1 and used 5-point Likert scales (5 = strongly agree; 1 = strongly disagree). The changes were made on consumer perceived value and customer satisfaction factors. Convenient sampling was chosen to conduct the sample collected and the modified factors are shown in Table 1 and Table 4.

**Table 1**

Constructed table for the survey data

<b>Construct</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Marketing Innovation (Zuñiga-Collazos & Palacio, 2016)	Seven items were chosen for addressing the marketing innovation factor include updating in: marketing activities, brochure and information, layouts for product visualizing, products on shelves, sale off programs, customer's service, employees' attitudes, and service abilities.
Products/Services Innovation (Daragahi, 2017)	Three items represent for this factor include new products/services release rate, time, and high-quality products/services.
Social Media Innovation (Samyadai, Yaseen, & Dajani, 2018)	The SMI was constructed with four items: flexibility in information searching; sharing information via a social network; positive feedbacks and evaluations from customers to Coopmart's image and service.
Perceived Value (Yang & Peterson, 2004)	This factor is analyzed through four items: reliability, pricing policy, and discount programs in products/services; addressing products and customers' support services.
Customer satisfaction (Weng, Ha, Wang, & Tsai, 2012)	The customer satisfaction was computed from Coopmart offered products/services on three items: general satisfaction, customers' attitudes when using products/services, the meets on the customers' needs.
Customer's Loyalty (Luarn & Lin, 2003)	The customer's loyalty was addressed by six items: foremost choice, loyalty, encouragement level, proud to be a part of Coopmart, negative information resistance, rate of suggestions for future growth.

Source: The research's data analysis

Quantitative analysis with data collecting in both direct and indirect ways using Google Docs is the next step of this study. To ensure the confidence for the Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) and Structural Equation Model (SEM) testing, a total of 300 questionnaires were distributed and 291 were returned from November 2018 to January 2019, the other 9 responses were filtered and removed due to being unqualified. The respondents are customers who hold Coopmart's member cards.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Sample structure

**Table 2**

Summarized data for statistical purpose

Construct	Classification	Number	%
Gender	Female	209	71.8
	Male	81	28.2
Age	Below 20 years old	40	13.7
	21-40 years old	119	40.9
	41-60 years old	93	32.0
	> 61 years old	39	13.4
Education	High school	46	15.8
	College	68	23.4
	University	135	46.4
	Higher Degree	42	14.4
Major	Office staffs	146	50.2
	Businessmen	68	23.4
	Manufacturer	36	12.4
	Others	41	14.1

Source: Data analysis result of the research

From the statistics, the majority of respondents are females who account for over 70 percent of the survey, where approximately 75 percent of Coopmart loyal customers with ages ranging from 21 to 60. Moreover, the total rate of college and university degree holders accumulate for over 70 percent while in the major classification, the total rate of office staff and businessmen are close to 75 percent.

### 4.2. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

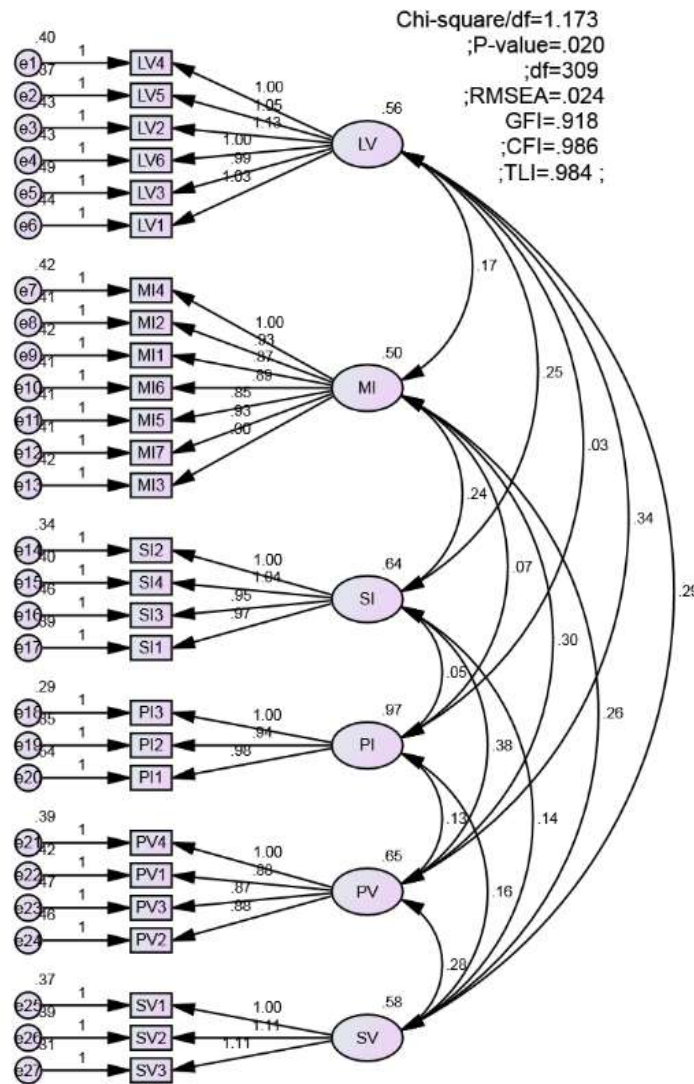
A CFA test was applied to the sample data using AMOS to test the reliability and validity of the model's variables, where all measurement items are accepted for further tests. As shown in Table 3,  $CMIN/df = 1.173$ , the root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) = 0.024 that lower than 0.08, along with the comparative fit index (CFI), the normed fit index (NFI), the goodness of fit index (GFI), which were all higher than 0.90, illustrating acceptable model fit (Hu & Bentler, 1999). The model's internal consistency was tested via the variables' reliability measured by Cronbach's  $\alpha$  and composite reliability measures, which is recommended that these values should higher than the acceptable level of 0.7 (Joreskog, 1971). Two standards were used to assess the convergent as well as the discriminant validity of the model include (1) average variance extracted (AVE) and (2) indicator factor loadings (J. C. Anderson & Gerbing, 1988; Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

**Table 3**

CFA test results (Retrieved from AMOS)

$\chi^2$	df	CMIN/df	GFI	CFI	TLI	RMSEA
362.457	309	1.173	0.918	0.986	0.984	0.024

Source: Data analysis result of the research



**Figure 2.** CFA model test result (Retrieved from AMOS)

For the convergent validity standard, where each variable should exceed 0.5, the computed results have proven to be satisfied with further tests in Table 4 and Figure 2. Also, the computed confidence interval (varies from 0.911 to 0.945) indicates the discriminant validity in two ways: firstly, there is no value of 1 within parameters shows the discriminant validity for all variables, and secondly, the correlation coefficients in each column are lower than the square roots of the AVE values proves the discriminant validity for each variable (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). Also, the p-value computed from AMOS is lower than 0.05 proves the validity of the model for the structural equation modeling (SEM) test.



**Table 4**

Cronbach Alpha, composite reliability, and average variance extracted test result (Retrieved from AMOS)

Latent and observed variables	Mean	Factor Loadings
Marketing Innovation (MI) CR = 0.993 AVE = 0.956 $\alpha$ = 0.876 Mean = 4.194 (Zuñiga-Collazos & Palacio, 2016)		
MI 01. Coopmart has innovated many activities in marketing to be attracted and get closed to customers	4.223	0.932
MI 02. The brochures and information about Coopmart always be innovated	4.179	1.000
MI 03. The layouts for products visualizing are frequently and suitably designed and innovated.	4.199	0.967
MI 04. Products on selves are innovated.	4.124	1.073
MI 05. Co.opmart has many attractive discounts programs for customers.	4.199	0.915
MI 06. Coopmart customer's services (checkout, delivery, and reserving) always be innovated.	4.206	0.948
MI 07. Coopmart employees' attitudes and servicing abilities are innovated to catch customers' needs.	4.227	1.000
Products/Services Innovation (PI) CR = 1.010 AVE = 1.064 $\alpha$ = 0.876 Mean = 4.024 (Daragahi, 2017)		
PI 01. Coopmart's new products/services releasing rates faster than other supermarket branches.	3.959	1.043
PI 02. Coopmart releases new products/services at the right times.	4.045	1.000
PI 03. Coopmart has many high-quality new products/services.	4.069	1.056
Social Media Innovation (SI) CR = 1.010 AVE = 1.042 $\alpha$ = 0.862 Mean = 4.105 (Samydaï et al., 2018)		
SI 01. Coopmart's information is easy to be found on the Internet.	4.127	1.000
SI 02. Coopmart's information is shared in social networks.	4.103	1.028
SI 03. Most customers have positive feedbacks on social networks after using the Coopmart's services.	4.110	0.980
SI 04. Coopmart's images continuously have more and more positive evaluations from customers.	4.079	1.072
Perceived Value (PV) CR = 1.023 AVE = 1.097 $\alpha$ = 0.830 Mean = 4.143 (Yang & Peterson, 2004)		
PV 01. The products/services offered by Coopmart are trustworthy.	4.175	1.017
PV 02. The prices of products/services offered by Coopmart are acceptable.	4.120	1.014

Latent and observed variables	Mean	Factor Loadings
PV 03. Coopmart always has many promotions and discounts programs for their products/services.	4.179	1.000
PV 04. It is easy to search for the products in Coopmart, the fast checkout and delivery services, and many additional support services.	4.096	1.152
Customer satisfactions (SV) CR = 1.047 AVE = 1.156 $\alpha$ = 0.849 Mean = 4.087 (Weng et al., 2012)		
SV 01. I'm satisfied with the Coopmart products/services.	4.069	1.000
SV 02. I like using the Coopmart products/services.	4.110	1.114
SV 03. The Coopmart products/services have caught my expectations.	4.082	1.108
Customer's Loyalty (LV) CR = 1.022 AVE = 1.068 $\alpha$ = 0.893 Mean = 4.102 (Luarn & Lin, 2003)		
LV 01. Coopmart has always been my foremost choice.	4.045	1.029
LV 02. I'm loyal to Coopmart.	4.069	1.123
LV 03. I announce to other customers about my experiences with Coopmart.	4.079	0.990
LV 04. I am proud to be a significant part of Coopmart's grant family.	4.124	1.000
LV 05. I will protect Coopmart when seeing negative information about the Coopmart.	4.175	1.045
LV 06. I usually give comments on Coopmart's improvement in products/services and the firms' developments.	4.120	0.997

Source: Data analysis result of the research

**Table 5**

Discriminant validity

	MI	PI	SI	PV	SV	LV
MI	0.936					
PI	0.092	0.936				
SI	0.372	0.069	0.928			
PV	0.448	0.152	0.509	0.911		
SV	0.416	0.184	0.200	0.380	0.921	
LV	0.292	0.048	0.365	0.482	0.439	0.945

Source: Data analysis result of the research

Note. Diagonal elements in the correlation matrix of constructs are the square root of the AVE values; the discriminant validity presents when the diagonal elements are greater than the off-diagonal elements

4.3. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM)

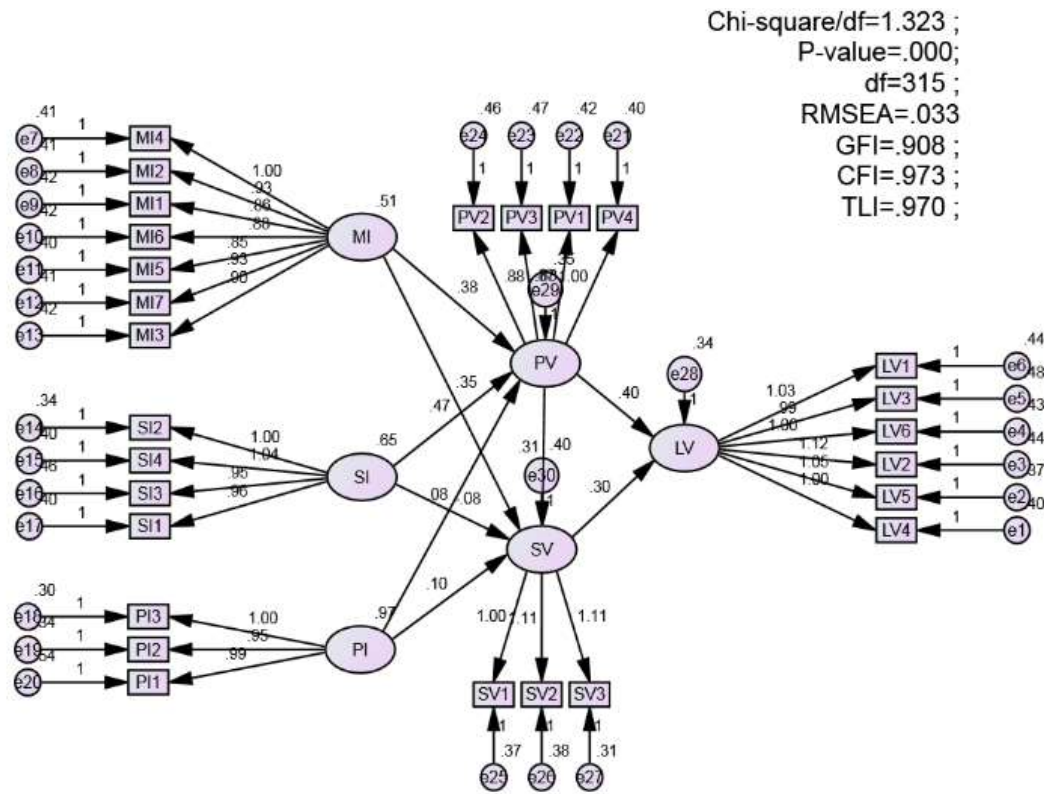


Figure 3. SEM model test result (Retrieved from AMOS)

According to the suggestion from (Hair, Black, Babin, & Anderson, 2018), all the calculated outcomes have satisfied the theoretical requirements, in which  $CMIN/df = 1.189 < 2$ ; all GFI, CFI, and TLI calculated outcomes are higher than 0.9 and  $RMSEA = 0.026 < 0.05$ . Thus the proposed SEM model is suitable for the collected survey data.

Table 6

SEM test results (Retrieved from AMOS)

$\chi^2$	df	CMIN/df	GFI	CFI	TLI	RMSEA
370.968	312	1.189	0.916	0.985	0.983	0.026

Source: Data analysis result of the research

All 6 factors are tested in the SEM Model and have shown significant moves that reject the impacts of product/service innovation factor to the consumer perceived value and the social media innovation factor to the customer satisfaction at a 95% confidence interval. The test result also denies the impact of product/service innovation to customer satisfaction at a 99% confidence interval while supports the proposed fact at a 95% confidence interval.

**Table 7**

Correlation test results (Retrieved from AMOS)

Correlations	Standardized Estimate	Estimate	Standard Error	Critical Ratio	P-Value
PV ← MI	0.315	0.332	0.072	4.603	***
PV ← PI	0.093	0.07	0.042	1.659	0.097
PV ← SI	0.462	0.415	0.065	6.386	***
SV ← MI	0.344	0.395	0.09	4.384	***
SV ← PI	0.126	0.103	0.05	2.074	0.038
SV ← SI	-0.111	-0.109	0.081	-1.344	0.179
SV ← PV	0.329	0.358	0.103	3.465	***
LV ← PV	0.426	0.457	0.079	5.799	***
LV ← SV	0.306	0.302	0.068	4.446	***

Source: Data analysis result of the research

Table 8 summaries the outcome of the retrieved SEM test results from AMOS.

**Table 8**

Hypotheses' conclusion

Hypothesis	States	Results
H1	Marketing innovation has a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value	Accept
H2	Marketing innovation has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions	Accept
H3	Product innovation has a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value	Reject at 95% C.I.
H4	Product innovation has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions	Accept
H5	Social media innovation has a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value	Accept
H6	Social media innovation has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions	Reject at 95% C.I.
H7	Consumer perceived value has a positive direct impact on customer satisfactions	Accept
H8	Consumer perceived value has a positive direct impact on customer's loyalty	Accept
H9	Customer satisfactions has a positive direct impact on customer's loyalty	Accept

Source: Data analysis result of the research

## 5. Discussion

After all, at 95% confidence interval, marketing innovation has proven to have a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value and customer satisfaction with the regression coefficients is 0.315 and 0.344 respectively **proves the stays of H1 and H2**: the increase in marketing innovated activities will enhance the consumer perceived value and customer satisfactions which is supported by Zuñiga-Collazos' study.

Also, the p-value for the product innovation's impact on consumer perceived value is 0.097 **welcomes the hypothesis H3 at 90% confidence interval and refuses to accept it at higher confidence level**, for example, 95% confidence interval, which is why we reject this hypothesis in our conclusion which is opposed by the studies of Daragahi (2017) and Naveed, Akhtar, and Cheema (2013). However, product innovation has a slight positive direct impact to the customer's perceived value with the regression coefficient is 0.093 while this factor impacts the customer satisfactions **confirms the existence of hypothesis H4**, with the regression coefficient is 0.126.

In addition to this, **hypothesis H5 supports the findings in the research of Samyadai et al. (2018)**, a positive direct impact on consumer perceived value has been found in the social media innovation with a regression coefficient at 0.462 but **hypothesis H6 was rejected** in the SEM test in the 95% confidence interval since the p-value is higher than 5% which shows that there are no relationships between social media innovation and customer satisfaction.

Moreover, both **hypotheses H7 and H8 were admitted** in the research under the regression coefficient at 0.329 and 0.426 respectively proving there is a positive direct impact on customer satisfaction and customer loyalty from the consumer perceived value. In addition to this, **H9 is accepted** with the regression coefficient is 0.306, which is supported by the findings of Luarn and Lin (2003), and Y. H. Kim, Kim, and Wachter (2013).

Besides, taking look back to the hypotheses tests results in Table 7, it can also be seen that both the relationships of the products/services innovation with consumer perceived value and customer satisfaction are rejected at 99% confidence interval, while only the tie between social media innovation and customer satisfaction is rejected at the same confidence interval and there are no rejects on the link between marketing innovation with customer's attitudes towards the purchased products/services. This proving the ranks in the impacts of the innovation factors mean scores, where the marketing innovation will have a tight bone with customer's behaviors with the mean scores is 4.194, the social media innovation then has the moderate effect to customer's attitudes with the mean scores is 4.105, and the products/service innovation with the mean scores is 4.024, have the least connection to customer's thoughts toward the purchased products/services and firms' characteristics. It can also be drawn from Tables 4, 5, and 7 that high consumer perceived value will result in higher chances to earn loyalty from the customers than customer satisfaction. This can also be seen in the ranks of mean scores between these factors, where the consumer perceived value takes the first place with 4.143, the second place is occupied by the customer's loyalty with 4.102, and finally is customer satisfaction with 4.087. This once repeats the outcome of the study that to boost the loyalty of customers, firms should aim for creating higher consumer perceived value and focus on innovating the marketing strategies rather than concentrating on creating new products/services. Social media channels can be the tools to uplift the consumer perceived value, which later result in better customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Furthermore, it can be expected the different outcomes between product innovation and consumer perceived value could come from the difference in definition between "Products" and

“Services”. Consequently, this can be an interesting field for future studies. The non-impact between social media innovation and customer satisfaction can be explained with the satisfaction that comes from the real experience and the pre-experience and post-experience comparing. The expansion of social media has boosted the customers’ pre-experience feelings which fails to match their expectations after purchasing the products/services and causes the big gap between social media marketing and customer satisfaction.

#### **Recommendations for firms’ developments:**

Apart from the study’s outcomes, the following recommendations can be drawn:

#### ***The boosting of marketing innovation activities for higher consumer perceived value and customer satisfaction***

The marketing impacts are the main key for most future developments of the firm from running new products to searching for the market and ways of distributing them. Thus, consumer perceived value and customer satisfaction were highly affected by marketing innovation. In the current state of Vietnam market, the uses of technologies in customers are dramatically climbed up, thus innovation in marketing must change to adapt to this. The rise of the globalization era has led to the interests of foreign investors in searching for new markets and expanding their reputations along with businesses. Thus, refusing to innovate based on the beliefs of customers’ loyalty is not a good option. By applying more and more investments in technologies and marketing ways, the survival chances for domestic retailers and service providers can be boosted for market occupation in the future.

#### ***The enhancement of products innovative activities for higher customer satisfaction***

In a world of dynamic changes by seconds, continuing to attract customer’s concerns and boosting their satisfaction are the main keys for the survival of the firms due to the positive effects between customers’ satisfaction and loyalties (Mittal & Kamakura, 2001; Selnes, 1993). Thus, firms should carefully consider on continuously improving products/services to not only catch the world’s trends but also get close to the customers, who always want better quality products/services at lower prices. Moreover, keep improving and innovating products/services will help enhance the customers’ satisfaction that consequently lead to the customers’ loyalties and helps firm expanding their business as well as cost reduction in the marketing, advertising, and operating process (Liat et al., 2014).

#### ***The increasing on social media innovation activities for higher consumer perceived value***

In the development of corporations, the social media channel plays an important role in advertising and promoting the value of the corporation and tighter the business-customer relationship. Moreover, the information delivered to customers must be accurate, trustworthy, and truthful. Communications between corporate staff and customers also affect the reputation of the business, showing through the proper attitudes, politeness, friendliness, as well as willingness to help customers at any time of the employees. Disrespect attitudes or negative behaviors will significantly damage the image of the firm, and in many cases, cause customers to turn their back to the brand. Therefore, administrators need to inform their employees in the firm about communicating policies in a professional way and prioritize the customers’ satisfaction first, especially the employees who continuously and frequently contact with customers.

The core element of the brand is the products/services quality of the business. But once the quality products/services are released, advertising and letting customers know about them is

compulsory which confirms the importance of social media marketing: informing the company's updates to the customers as well as forming a seed of attraction for future merchandise activities. As a result, the corporation must boost its relationships with the advertising channels with honest information about their businesses and products which closes the gap from them to their customers under widespread advertisements and boosts the corporation's image later. To sum up, social media and business connections must be tight for significant enhancements in the future. Without social media marketing, it is difficult to build and promote the reputations of the brand.

## **6. Conclusion**

### **6.1. Summary of the research**

This research built a model investigating the effects of innovating activities on the customer's loyalty through consumer perceived value and customer satisfaction channels. The qualitative pilot study and quantitative analysis were applied in which a questionnaire with 6 factors along with 27 variables for the quantitative analysis was achieved from the pilot study. 300 questionnaires were distributed but only 291 questionnaires were qualified for data analysis. It was found in the study that at 95% confidence interval, product/service innovation has no impact on consumer perceived value and customer satisfaction is not affected by the social media innovation while other hypotheses were accepted and confirmed at the same confidence interval level.

### **6.2. Theoretical contribution**

This study investigates the effects of innovation on other factors, in which customer's loyalty is indirectly affected through customer satisfaction and consumer perceived value channels. The relationship between innovation factors and customers' behavioral factors is that this study's main contribution and different innovation types will affect customers' behaviors in different ways has been confirmed. Thus, innovation must be carefully identified when searching its impacts on customers' psychological characteristics such as loyalty, satisfaction, and perceived value.

### **6.3. Managerial implications**

This study has suggested some innovation moves should be made for the development of Coopmart retailer chains in the future in which marketing innovation should be prioritized first for achieving both customer satisfaction and consumer perceived value.

### **6.4. Limitations**

Although this research has drawn out some positive results, however, it only focuses on Coopmart's customers with member cards in Ho Chi Minh City and not generalize the research outcomes. Further searches with Coopmart's branches in many big cities in Vietnam for all customers who pay for the services/products they received from Coopmart would help generalize and make the outcomes more significant in the future.

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