A STUDY OF CONSUMER BUYING BEHAVIOR IN FMCG SECTOR (LOW INVOLVEMENT PRODUCTS)

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ABSTRACT

A decade ago, the advertising to sales promotion ratio was about 60:40. Today in many packaged consumer goods companies, sales promotion accounts for almost 65% to 75% of the combined budget. Sales promotion expenditures have been increasing as a percentage of budget expenditure annually for the last two decades and the fast growth is expected to continue.

Competitors use a variety of techniques to encourage consumers to try their brands such as new product introductions, free samples and other promotional offers. Marketers must continually battle to maintain their loyal consumers, while at the same time replacing those who switch brands.

'Premium' is a type of sales promotion device used by many marketers. A premium is an offer of an item of merchandise or services either free or at a lower price that is used as an extra incentive for purchase. Marketers' use of premium offers is changing in favor of "value added" premiums that reflects the quality of the products and are consistent with their image and positioning in the market.

While purchase decisions for non durable, convenience items may occur before actual purchase, these decisions sometimes take place in stores, as decision and purchase occur almost simultaneously. Marketers must recognize that these types of decisions are influenced at the actual point of purchase. Promotional tools such as on-package coupons or premium offers may be helpful in influencing decisions made through constructive processes at the point of purchase. These promotional tools can supplement or reinforce the awareness or brand identity created by the advertising program.

Objective- The objectives of the Research Work in this thesis are:

➤ To understand the importance of Premium offers in the purchase decision of low-involvement products.

> To find out the impact of Premium offers on the purchase behavior of customers.

Research Methodology

The Study- The study is exploratory in nature. At the beginning, the first task was to select specific products in low involvement sector to achieve the objectives of this study. The products chosen for this study are 'Toothpaste' and 'Detergent Powder'. The products are chosen keeping in mind that there are premium offers generally offered with these products.

The Sample- The study was conducted in New Delhi with the sample size of 200 respondents.

The Tools

For data collection: Primary data in this study collected through a questionnaire.

For data analysis: Appropriate statistical tools such as Mean and Standard Deviation used. Apart from this, Z – test was also applied to test the significance of difference between the responses of the respondents for Toothpaste and Detergent powder.

INTRODUCTION

A decade ago, the advertising to sales promotion ratio was about 60:40. Today in many packaged consumer goods companies, sales promotion accounts for almost 65% to 75% of the combined budget. Sales promotion expenditures have been increasing as a percentage of budget expenditure annually for the last two decades and the fast growth is expected to continue.

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OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the Research Work in this thesis are:

- > To understand the importance of Premium offers in the purchase decision of low-involvement products.
- To find out the impact of Premium offers on the purchase behaviour of customers.
- ➤ To understand the decision making criteria of consumers while purchasing low involvement products.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses upon the relevance of price, premium offers, and level of involvement while purchasing low involvement products to understand the buying behaviour of consumers.

If a marketer can identify consumer buyer behaviour, he or she will be in a better position to target products and services at them. Buyer behaviour is focused upon the needs of individuals, groups and organisations.

It is important to understand the relevance of human needs to buyer behaviour

Buying Behaviour is the decision processes and acts of people involved in buying and using products.

Consumer Buying Behaviour refers to the buying behaviour of the ultimate consumer. A firm needs to analyze buying behaviour for:

- Buyer's reactions to a firms marketing strategy has a great impact on the firm's success.
- The marketing concept stresses that a firm should create a <u>Marketing Mix(MM)</u> that satisfies (gives utility to) customers, therefore need to analyze the what, where, when and how consumers buy.

• Marketers can better predict how consumers will respond to marketing strategies.

Types of consumer buying behaviour are determined by:

• Level of Involvement in purchase decision. Importance and intensity of interest in a product in a particular situation.

• Buyers level of involvement determines why he/she is motivated to seek information about a certain products and brands but virtually ignores others.

LITERATURE REVIEW

FMCG SECTOR

Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) goods are popularly named as consumer packaged goods. Items in this category include all consumables (other than groceries/pulses) people buy at regular intervals. The most common in the list are toilet soaps, detergents, shampoos, toothpaste, shaving products, shoe polish, packaged foodstuff and household accessories and extends to certain electronic goods. These items are meant for daily of frequent consumption and have a high return.

A major portion of the monthly budget of each household is reserved for FMCG products. The volume of money circulated in the economy against FMCG products is very high, as the number of products the consumer use is very high. Competition in the FMCG sector is very high resulting in high pressure on margins.

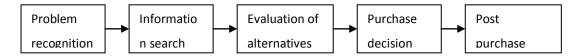
BUYING DECISION PROCESS

Marketers have to go beyond the various influences on buyers and develop an understanding of how consumers actually make their buying decisions. Marketers must identify who makes the buying decision, the buying decisions that are involved and the steps in the buying process.

Stages in buying Decision Process

Based on examination of many consumer reports of buying episodes, consumer behaviour researches have proposed "stage models" of the buying process. Stage models are mostly relevant to complex decision making – i.e. buying experience, high involvement products. This model emphasizes that the buying process starts long before the actual purchase and has

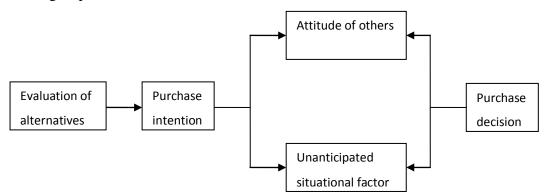
consequences long after the purchase. It encourages the marketer to focus on the buying process rather than on the purchase decision.



Stages in buying decision process

Purchase decision

At some point in the buying process, the consumer stop searching for and evaluating information about alternative brands in the market and make a purchase decision. As an outcome of the alternative evaluation stage, the consumer may develop a purchase intention or a predisposition to buy a certain brand. Purchase intentions are generally based on a matching of purchase motives with attributes or characteristics of brands under consideration.



Stages between purchase intention and purchase decision

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Study

The study is exploratory in nature. At the beginning, the first task is to select specific products in low involvement sector to achieve the objectives of this study. The products chosen for this study is 'Detergent Powder'. The product is chosen keeping in mind that there are premium offers generally offered with these products.

Hypothesis Formulation

One tailed Z-test for the difference between the means of two samples is used to test the Hypothesis. If the values of mean, standard deviation, and sample size of two random samples respectively are given then the Z statistics is calculated.

The hypothesis will be accepted or rejected at 5% level of significance i.e. if Z statistics value is less than 1.96, the null hypothesis is accepted, and if the Z statistics value is more than 1.96, the null hypothesis is rejected.

1)H0: μ 1= μ 2; There is no significant difference in the importance of brand name for purchase decision of Detergent Powder.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

2)H0:μ1= μ2; There is no significant difference in the different brands of Detergent Powder available in the market.

H1: μ 1 \neq μ 2; There is a significant difference.

The Sample- The study will be conducted in New Delhi with the sample size of 200 respondents.

The Tools- For data collection: Primary data in this study collected through a questionnaire. **For data analysis:** Appropriate statistical tools such as Mean and Standard Deviation used. Apart from this, Z – test was also applied to test the significance of difference between the responses of the respondents for Toothpaste and Detergent powder.

DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

One tailed Z-test for the difference between the means of two samples is used to test the Hypothesis. If the values of mean, standard deviation, and sample size of two random samples respectively are given then the Z statistics is calculated.

The hypothesis will be accepted or rejected at 5% level of significance i.e. if Z statistics value is less then 1.96, the null hypothesis is accepted, and if the Z statistics value is more than 1.96, the null hypothesis is rejected.

1. $H0:\mu 1=\mu 2$; There is no significant difference in customers taking care about which brand of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste they buy.

H1: μ 1 \neq μ 2; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 1.727

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

2. $H0:\mu1=\mu2$; There is no significant difference in the different brands of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste available in the market.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 2.978

The hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance.

3. $H0:\mu 1= \mu 2$; There is no significant difference in the customers taking advantage of incentives offered on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: μ 1 \neq μ 2; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 0.675

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

4. $H0:\mu 1=\mu 2$; There is no significant difference in terms of concern of the customer for premium offer on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -.0.091

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

5. $H0:\mu1=\mu2$; There is no significant difference in the importance of brand name for purchase decision of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -1.650

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

6. $H0:\mu1=\mu2$; There is no significant difference in the importance of product quality for purchase decision of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -0.137

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

7. $H0:\mu 1= \mu 2$; There is no significant difference in the importance of premium offered for purchase decision of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 2.863

The hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance.

8. H0: μ 1= μ 2; There is no significant difference in the importance of style for purchase decision of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -6.627

The hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance.

9. H0: μ 1= μ 2; There is no significant difference in the importance of price for purchase decision of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 0.640

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

10. $H0:\mu 1= \mu 2$; There is no significant difference in the importance of product specification for purchase decision of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -1.462

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

11. $H0:\mu 1=\mu 2$; There is no significant difference in the waiting time if premium offer is not available on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: μ 1 \neq μ 2; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 0.737

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

12. $H0:\mu 1= \mu 2$; There is no significant difference in essentiality of premium offer on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 1.133

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

13. $H0:\mu 1= \mu 2$; There is no significant difference in benefits of premium offer on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 0.681

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

14. $H0:\mu 1=\mu 2$; There is no significant difference in need for premium offer on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -0.766

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

15. $H0:\mu1=\mu2$; There is no significant difference in pleasurably of premium offer on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -1.171

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

16. H0: μ 1= μ 2; There is no significant difference in the premium offers on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste being exciting.

H1: μ 1 \neq μ 2; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -2.191

The hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance.

17. H0: μ 1= μ 2; There is no significant difference in the premium offers on Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste being fun.

H1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2$; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = -0.119

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

18. $H0:\mu1=\mu2$; There is no significant difference in the customer buying Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste without incentives.

H1: μ 1 \neq μ 2; There is a significant difference.

Z statistics = 0.706

The hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance.

CONCLUSION

The two objectives mentioned earlier have been accomplished with the following results:

Importance of Premium offers purchase decision;

Premium offers are considered to be of least importance while taking decisions for purchase of FMCG items. The data reveals that in both the cases for Detergent Powder as well as Tooth Paste, premium offer is ranked the last among the six factors i.e. brand name, product quality, premium offered, style, price, and product specification considered for purchase decision. The average scores are 4.00 and 3.29 for Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste respectively.

Impact of premium offers on purchase behavior;

The average score of 2.64 indicates that customers disagree partially that incentive influences them to buy the products.

Customers do not buy the goods only because of incentives as the mean score is 2.61 on a 7 point scale.

The average score of 4.17 and 4.33 of Detergent Powder and Tooth Paste respectively indicates that customer disagree partially that they are ready to wait for the incentive offers.

Customers do not find the incentive offers essential, beneficial, needed, pleasurable, exciting and fun as the Mean scores are 3.24, 3.23, 2.23, 2.53, 3.18, and 3.34 respectively for Detergent Powder.

From the above results, we can conclude that incentives do not impact the purchase behavior of FMCG items in general.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE MARKETER

Premium offers only influences the brand switching to a very small extent. The main factors for taking purchase decision are price, product quality and brand name. Hence marketers need to focus more on these three aspects rather the incentives alone.

Majority of the customers want the prices to be reduced (value of the incentive offered) than the gifts or other incentives offered. It is also seen that Bazee.com and other websites are able to attract customers not because of the premium offers but the price benefits communicated by them to the customers.

As the survey reveals, most of the customers do not find the incentives/premium offers to be essential or needed by them. Hence they do not find any value addition done by the marketer.

FOR RESEARCHERS

The study reveals that the different types of incentives offered till now have been neither needed nor considered essential by the customer. So, to design a proper and effective sales promotion strategy, the research should focus on what are the different types of incentives which would be considered as value addition by the customers.

NAMI	Ξ			:			
AGE				:			
SEX				: Male	/Female		
OCCU	PATION			:			
EDUC	CATIONAL	. QUALIFI	CATION	: a) HS	SC (10 th)	b) SSC (12 ^t	th)
c) Gra	duate	d) Post-C	Graduate				
MONT	ГНГА НОГ	JSEHOLD	INCOME	: a) U _I	oto Rs.6000		
L \ D							
b) Rs.	6000 - 100)00					
,	6000 – 100 10000 -150						
c) Rs.	10000 -150	000					
c) Rs.		000					
c) Rs.	10000 -150	000					
c) Rs.	10000 -150 ove Rs.1500	000	, I like to b	e sure that	: I am gettin	g my money's	worth.
c) Rs.	10000 -150 ove Rs.1500	000	, I like to b	be sure that	I am getting	g my money's 2	worth.
c) Rs.	10000 -150 ove Rs.1500 When I bu	000 00 ny products 6	5		3		1
c) Rs.	When I bu	000 00 ny products 6	5 Agree	4 Can't	3 Disagree	2	1 Strongly
c) Rs. d) Abo	When I but The Strongly General	000 00 ny products 6 Agree lly Partia	5 Agree lly say	4 Can't Parti	3 Disagree ally Gen	2 Disagree	1 Strongly ree

3) I have favorite brands but most of the time I buy the brand that is having incentive offers with it.

	7		6		5		4		3		2		1	
	Stroi	ngly	Agree	e	Agree	Э	Can't		Disagr	ee	Disagi	ree	Strongly	
	Agree	Gene	rally	Parti	ally	say	y	Par	tially	Ger	erally	Dis	agree	
4)	I am	very c	oncern	ed of	the pr	ices								
	7		6		5		4		3		2		1	
	Stroi	ngly	Agree)	Agree	e	Can't		Disagr	ee	Disagn	ree	Strongly	
	Agree	Gene	rally	Parti	ally	say	y	Par	tially	Ger	erally	Dis	agree	
5)	Whe	n incei	ntives a	re of	fered,	I fee	el that	I am	getting	a goo	d deal.			
	7		6		5		4		3		2		1	
	Stroi	ngly	Agree	e	Agree	e	Can't		Disagr	ee	Disagn	ree	Strongly	
	Agree	Gene	rally	Parti	ally	say	ý	Par	tially	Ger	erally	Dis	agree	
6)	I ofte	en buy	things	simpl	ly beca	ause	they h	nave	incenti	ve off	ers.			
	7		6		5		4		3		2		1	
	Stron	ngly	Agree	9	Agree	e	Can't		Disagr	ree	Disagn	ree	Strongly	
	Agree	Gene	erally	Parti	ally	say	y	Par	tially	Gen	erally	Dis	agree	
7)	I am	willin	g to sp	end e	extra ti	ime	shopp	ing i	n order	to ge	t the cl	heap	est possible	price
	on go	oods o	f like q	uality	·									
	7		6		5		4		3		2		1	
	Stron	ngly	Agree)	Agree	9	Can't		Disagr	ree	Disagi	ree	Strongly	
	Agree	Gene	erally	Parti	ally	say	y	Par	tially	Ger	erally	Dis	agree	
8)	I enj	oy usir	ng ince	ntives	regar	dles	ss of th	e am	ount, I	save ł	y doin	g so.		
	7		6		5		4		3		2		1	
	Stron	ngly	Agree)	Agree	e	Can't		Disagr	ee	Disagn	ree	Strongly	

Agree	Generally Partially say Partially Generally Disagree
9)	From the following what would you prefer?
	> Incentives.
	> Product must cost less by the amount of incentive offered.
<u>SECT.</u>	ION "A"
1)	Do you use Detergent powder? YES/NO
2)	If yes, which brand of Detergent Powder do you use?
3)	Have you bought your Detergent Powder (recently) in any incentive offered by the company?
	() Yes () No
	If yes, what was the incentive offered.
4)	In selecting from many types and brands of Detergent Powder available in the market
	you would say that,
I woul	d not care to 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 I would care a great deal
which	one I buy as to which one I buy
5)	Do you think that the various types and brands of Detergent Powder available in the
	market are all,
	Very alike 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Different
6)	I often take advantage of incentives offered on the products.
	7 6 5 4 3 2 1
	Strongly Agree Agree Can't Disagree Disagree Strongly
Aو	gree Generally Partially say Partially Generally Disagree

7)	In ma	aking the	e sel	ectio	n o	f l	Dete	erge	nt	Pov	vder	, h	ow cor	ncerne	d you	are	about	the
	premi	um offer	ed w	ith th	ne p	roc	luct	•										
Not at	all con	cerned	1	2 3	4	·	5	6	7	Ve	ry n	nuc	h conce	rned				
8)	While	differen	ıtiatir	ng the	e De	ete	rger	nt P	owo	der,	hov	v m	uch we	ightag	e will	you	give to	the
	follov	ving fact	ors w	hile	taki	ng	the	fina				de	ecision?					
	>	Brand				U			•		5							
		Diana	папіс	-			1	<i>_</i>	3	4	5	U	,					
	>	Produc	ct Qu	ality			1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
	>	Premiu	ım of	fers			1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
	>	Style					1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
	>	Price					1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
	>	Produc	et spe	cifica	atio	n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
9)	I am 1	ready to	wait	for t	he I	De	terg	ent	Pov	wde	r wi	ith	incentiv	e offe	r but i	s no	t avail	able
	with t	he retaile	er.															
7	6		5		4				3				2	-	1			
	St	rongly	Ag	ree		Αį	gree		Caı	n't		Dis	sagree	Dis	agree	Stı	ongly	
Ag	ree	General	ly :	Parti	ally		say			Par	tiall	y	Gene	rally	Disagı	ree		
10)	What	do you f	eel a	bout	the	inc	cent	ives	of	fere	d or	ı a l	Deterge	nt Pov	vder?			
,		•																
	>	Essent	ial		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	Not esse	ential				
	>	Benefi	cial		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	Not bene	eficial				
	>	Not ne	eded		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	N	Needed					
	>	I do no	ot find	d it	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	I	find it	pleasu	rable			
	>	pleasu	rable															
	>	Unexc	iting		1	2	3	4	5	6	5 7	' 1	Exciting	7				
	>	Fun			1	2	3	4	. 5	5 6	5 7	7	Not fun					

1	11)	I wo	uld not bu	y a particul	ar Detergo	ent Powde	r if it doe	es not have	e any ind	centive offer.			
		7	6	5	4		3	2		1			
		S	Strongly	Agree	Agree	Can't	Disag	ree Di	isagree	Strongly			
	Ag	ree	Generall	y Partiall	ly say	Parti	ally (Generally	Disagr	ee			
<u>SECTION "B"</u>													
1	1)	Do y	ou consur	ne Tooth Pa	aste?			YES/NO					
2	2)	If	yes,	which	brand	of T	Cooth	Paste	do	you use	?		
3	Have you bought your Tooth Paste (recently) in any incentive offered by the company?												
Ι	() Yes () No If yes, what was the incentive offered.												
4	4)	In se	electing fro	om many ty	pes and l	brands of	Tooth Pa	ıste availa	ble in tl	ne market you	1		
		woul	ld say that	,									
I	would	d not	care to	1 2 3 4	5 6	7 I wou	ıld care a	great deal	l				
which or	ne I bu	ıy			as to	o which or	ne I buy						
5	5)	Do y	ou think t	hat the vari	ous types	and branc	ds of Too	oth Paste a	vailable	in the marke	t		
		are a	ıll,										
			Very al	like 1 2	3 4	5 6 7	Differen	nt					
6	5)	I ofte	en take ad	vantage of i	ncentives	offered or	n the pro	ducts.					
7	7	(6	5	4	3	2		1				
		S	Strongly	Agree	Agree	Can't	Disag	ree Di	sagree	Strongly			

		Agree (Gener	ally	I	Part	iall	y	say	7		Partially	Generally	Disagree
7)	In	making the	sele	ction	of	To	ooth	Pa	ste,	ho	W	concerned	you are about	the premium
	off	fered with the	ne pro	duct	t.									
	No	ot at all conc	ernec	1 1	2	2 :	3	4	5	6	7	Very muc	ch concerned	
8)	W	hile differe	ntiatiı	ng tl	he '	Too	oth	Pas	te,	hov	w r	nuch weigh	htage will you	u give to the
	fol	lowing fact	ors w	hile	tak	ing	the	fina	al p	urc	has	e decision?		
	>	Brand nam	ne			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	>	Product Q	uality			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	>	Premium o	offers			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	>	Style				1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	>	Price				1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	>	Product sp	ecific	atio	n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
9)	I a	m ready to	wait	for 1	the	То	oth	Pas	ste v	witl	ı in	centive off	er but is not a	available with
	the	e retailer.												
		7		6			5		2	4		3	2	1
Strong	ly	Agree	Ag	ree	(Can	't		Dis	agr	ee	Disagre	e Strongly	
		Agree	Gen	erall	y	Pa	artia	ılly	S	ay		Partially	Generally	Disagree
10)	W	hat do you f	eel al	oout	the	inc	ent	ives	off	fere	d o	n a Tooth F	Paste?	
	>	Essential		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	']	Not essentia	al	
	>	Beneficial		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	']	Not benefic	ial	
	>	Not neede	d	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	']	Needed		
	>	I do not fin	nd it	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	']	find it plea	asurable	
		Pleasurabl	e									-		
	>	Unexciting	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	-	7	Exciting		
	>	Fun	-	1								Not fun		

11) I would not buy a particular Tooth Paste if it does not have any incentive offer.

7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Strongly Agree Agree Can't Disagree Disagree Strongly

Agree Generally Partially say Partially Generally Disagree

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