QUALITY AND SERVICE INNOVATION

MARKETING OF SERVICES

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INTRODUCTION

• The service quality of a firm is tested at each service encounter.





DEFINING SERVICE QUALITY

• Service quality is the delivery of excellent or superior service relative to customer expectations.





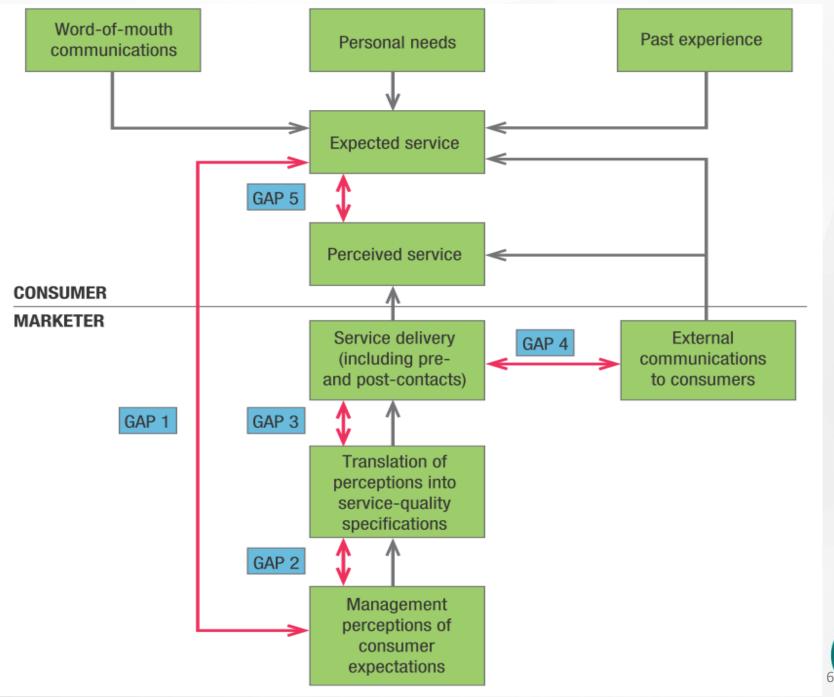


- Internal quality is based on conformance to specifications.
- External quality is based on relative customer-perceived quality.
- There are biases!



- Customers frequently identify key purchase criteria not identified by management.
- Differences in perception of performance may exist for the most basic of criteria.







- Consumer expectation and management perception.
- Management perception and service quality expectations.
- Service quality specifications and service deliver.
- Service delivery and external communications to consumers.
- Expected service and perceived service.



• The difference between consumer expectations and management perceptions of consumer expectations.

The Knowledge Gap.



• The difference between the management perceptions of consumer expectations and service quality specifications.

The Standards Gap.



• The difference between service quality specification and the service actually delivered.

The Delivery Gap.



• The difference between service delivery intention and what is communicated about the service to customers.

The Communication Gap.



• The difference between the actual performance and the customers' perception of the service.

The Customer Gap.



IMPROVEMENT

• Improving service quality is an important activity, which needs to be followed.

- Some of the commonly used techniques for improving service quality:
 - Benchmarking.
 - Service Blueprinting.



- Listening.
 - Reliability.

IMPROVING SERVICES

- Basic service.
 - Service design.
 - Recovery.
 - Surprising customers.
 - Fair play.
 - Teamwork.
 - Employee research.
 - Servant leadership.

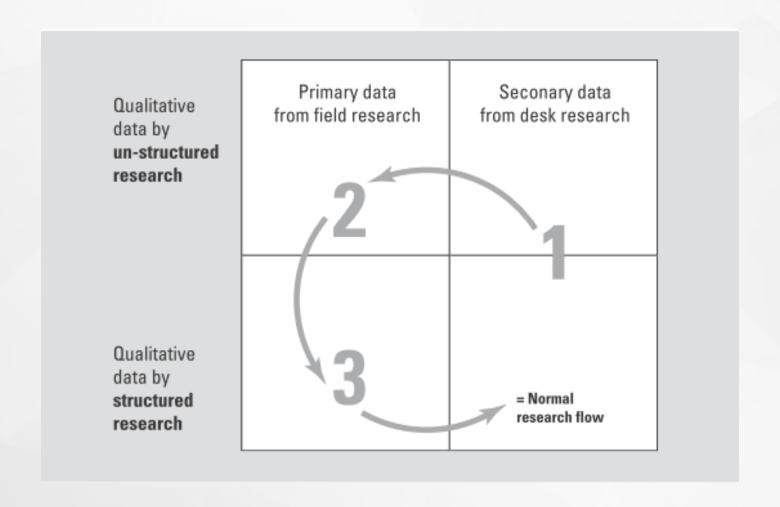


INCORPORATING SELF-SERVICE TECHNOLOGIES

• To traditional vending machines we can add automated teller machines (ATMs), self-pumping at gas stations, self-checkout at hotels, and a variety of activities on the Internet, such as ticket purchasing, investment trading, and customization of products.



TYPES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE





SECONDARY DATA VIA DESK RESEARCH

• The researcher should never forget that it is 'second-hand'.

 It should always be tested for impartiality, validity, currency, and reliability.





SECONDARY DATA – IMPARTIALITY

• 'Partial data' is produced when there is a 'hidden agenda' to the research.

Considering information without bias.



SECONDARY DATA - VALIDITY

- The extent to which a measure, indicator or method of data collection possesses the quality of being sound or true as far as can be judged.
- In the social sciences generally, the relationship between indicators and measures and the underlying concepts they are taken to measure is often contested.

SECONDARY DATA – CURRENCY

How up-to-date is the information?



KEEP CALM AND **KEEP** UP TO DATE



SECONDARY DATA - RELIABILITY

• This topic asks whether the research methodology is up to the job?





PRIMARY INFORMATION VIA FIELD RESEARCH

• Primary research is conducted to fill information gaps that the secondary data has not been able to satisfy.

AD HOC vs. MULTI-CLIENT on the one axis

and

QUALITATIVE vs. QUANTITATIVE on the other.



PRIMARY INFORMATION VIA FIELD RESEARCH

- Multi client falls into three distinct categories:
 - Syndicated studies instigated by a group of firms in an industry.
 - Industry studies originated by the research agency.
 - Omnibus studies.



QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

- There are many ways of conducting qualitative research,
 ranging from in-depth interviews to focus group discussions.
- Unstructured research techniques.
- Questions are nearly all in open format.
- High level of interviewing skills and interpretive skills.



QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

- Structured research techniques.
- The quantitative data is captured via the use of an instrument such as a questionnaire, diary or audit most or response can be obtained via a personal interview conducted face to face or by telephone.



RESEARCH EXAMPLES

- Customer complaint analysis.
- Mystery shopping.
- Customer surveys.
- A panel.



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