# Factors Affecting on Consumer's Cell Phone Purchasing Behavior: A study on Gazipur district in Bangladesh

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### Abstract

The main objective of this study is to investigate the factors affecting the decision of Purchasing Cell phone devices in Gazipur town. In order to accomplish the objectives of the study, a sample of 230 consumers were taken by using simple random sampling technique. Both primary and secondary data were explored. Moreover, six important factors i.e. price, social group, product features, brand name, durability and after sales services were selected and analyzed through the use of correlation and multiple regressions analysis. From the analysis, it was clear that consumer's value price followed by Cell phone features as the most important variable amongst all and it also acted as a motivational force that influences them to go for a Cell phone purchase decision. The study suggested that the Cell phone sellers should consider the above mentioned factors to equate the opportunity.

**Index Terms:** Consumer Purchasing Behavior, Cell Phone, Consumer Purchase Decision, Cell Phone Features, Various Factors, Motivational Forces, Purchase Capacity.

#### **1. Introduction**

The development of Cell phones and technologies has been an extended history of innovation and advancements cropped up due to dynamic changes in consumers' needs preferences. and Among these developments, Cell phone devices have had one of the fastest household adoption rates of any technology in the world's modern (Comer and Wikle. history 2008). Nowadays, Cell handsets have become an integral part of human daily life and personal communication across the globe.

In the current highly competitive Cell phone market, manufacturers constantly fight to find additional competitive edge and differentiating elements to persuade consumers' to select their brand instead of a competitor's. There are various studies conducted to identify factors that make companies better than their competitors in influencing the customers purchase decision. Consumers' of Cell phone found throughout the world greatly influenced by those different factors affecting Cell phones purchase decision. These factors may be related to the characteristics of the consumer and the features associated with the Cell phones. This leads Cell phone companies to come up with a variety of Cells with different brands and features. There is various research studies conducted to identify factors affecting consumers' choice of Cell phones. These studies indicated a range of items as a determinant factor influencing purchase decision. These factors include price, features, quality, brand name, durability, social factors and so on (Li 2010; Zheng, 2007; Zhang, 2006; Huang, 2004).

Cell penetration in Bangladesh is very low when compared to the other Asian countries (Research ICT Asia, 2010). However, there are 16 million Cell phone subscribers owning various brands of Cell phone. During the Cell phone purchasing decision process, these subscribers' takes into numerous factors. However. account researchers devoted little attention to factors underlying the Cell phone purchasing decision process in Bangladesh. This study seeks to know the factors that underlying a person's decision in choosing brand of Cell phone(s) to use. At the end of this study, it will be possible to know the most popular brand of Cell phone in Gazipur city.

## 2. Literature Review

Consumers are individuals and households that buy the firms product for personal consumption (Kotler, 2004). It often used to describe two different kinds of consuming entities: the personal consumers and the organizational consumers (Krishna, 2010). The activities these consumers undertake when obtaining, consuming, and disposing of products and a service is known as consumer behavior. Consumer behavior involves studying how people buy, what they buy, when they buy and why they buy. When a consumer wanted to make the purchase decision, they will pass through the recognition, process through search information, evaluation, purchase, feedback (Blackwell, Miniard, and Engel, 2006). At last, the consumer will choose a product or brand to consume from various choices in the market. However, these factors affecting the Purchasing behavior of consumers vary due to diverse environmental and individual determinants. Consumer purchasing

behavior is influenced by two major factors. These factors are individual and environmental.

The major categories of individual factors affecting consumer behavior are demographics, consumer Knowledge, perception, learning, motivation, personality, beliefs, attitudes and life styles. second category of factors is The environmental factors. Environmental factors represent those items outside of the individual that affect individual consumer's decision making process. These factors include culture, social class, reference group, family and household. The above mentioned factors are the major determinants behind the decision of consumers to opt a given good or service (Blackwell, Miniard, and Engel, 2006).

Bangladesh is a developing country and has witnessed fast economic growth and developments in Cell telecommunication penetration in recent years. Due to these reasons, there is a dynamic increase in the number of Cell phone device users. This attracted large number of international firms to enter into Cell industry and offer various brands of Cell phones. However, the choice of consumer is diverse due to various factors associated with consumer behavior. In this context, it is important to study the various factors which shape the consumers mind during the purchase of Cell phone devices.

According to Karjaluoto et al. (2005), price, brand, interface, and properties tends to have the most influential factors affecting the actual choice amongst Cell phone brands. Ling, Hwang and Salvendy (2007) surveyed college students to identify their preference of their current Cell phone. The results of their survey indicated that the physical appearance, size and menu organization of the Cell phones are the most determinant factors affecting the choice of Cell phones.

Mack and Sharples (2009) showed that usability in the most important determinant of Cell choice; other attributes particularly features, aesthetics and cost are other factors that have implication on the choice of Cell phone brand. In other study conducted by Kumar (2012), price, quality and style functions as the most influential factors affecting the choice of Cell phones. Moreover, Saif et al, 2012 selected four important factors i.e. price, size/shape, new technology features and brand name and analyzed their impact on consumers' Purchasing behavior. According to his result, consumer's value new technology features as the most important variable that influences consumers' to go for a new Cell phone purchase decision.

Eric and Bright (2008) conducted a study on factors that determine the choice of brands of Cell phone in Ghana specifically Kumasi Metropolis. Accordingly, the results of the study showed that the first most important factor is reliable quality of the Cell phone brand and the other factor is userfriendliness of the brand of the Cell phone. (2012) conducted Das Likewise, an empirical research based on survey method on factors influencing Purchasing behavior of youth consumers towards Cell handsets in coastal districts of Odisha located in India. According to the study, a handset of reputed brand, smart appearance, and with advanced value added features, pleasure ability and usability; is the choice of young consumers; females in gender-group, post-graduates in level of education-group, students in occupational group, urban residents in geographical area group plays most prominent role in Purchasing decision of a Cell handset.

Pakola et al. (2010) attempted to investigate consumer purchasing motives in cellular phone markets. The results indicated that while price and properties were the most influential factors affecting the purchase of a new Cell phone, price, audibility and friends' operator were regarded as the most important in the choice of the Cell phone operator. As well, Saif (2012) analyzed the factors affecting consumers' choice of Cell phone selection in Pakistan. The results indicated that consumer's value new technology features as the most important variable amongst all and it also acts as a motivational force that influences them to go for a new handset purchase decision.

Subramanyam and Venkateswarlu (2012) conducted a study on factors influencing buyer behavior of Cell phone buyers in Kadapa district in India. The researchers studied the various types of marketing strategies adopted by market to acquire the attention and cognition of both existing and potential customers, and to study what role these marketing strategies play in consumer Purchasing process. According to the results, income, advertising and level of education in a family are the determining factors of owning a Cell phone set. Malasi (2012) examined the influence of product attributes phone preference on Cell among undergraduate university students in Kenya. The study indicated that varying the product attributes' has an influence on the undergraduate students' preferences on Cell phones. Various aspects of product and brand attributes were considered such as color themes, visible name labels, and Cell phone with variety of models, packaging for safety, degree of awareness on safety issues, look and design of the phone.

Based on previous research studies and literatures reviewed the following conceptual framework and research hypothesis were developed for this research project. Accordingly, six independent variable (i.e. price, social factors, durability, brand name, product features and after sales services) thought to influence the dependent variable (i.e. decision to by) are identified.

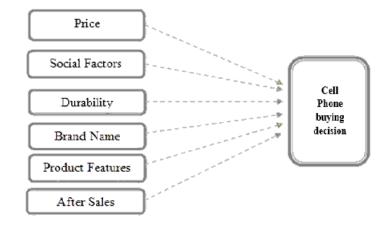


Figure1: Conceptual Framework of the Study

The research is examined through the following hypotheses:

H1: The social factors have a positive influence on the consumers' Cell phone purchasing decision.

H2: Durability has a positive influence on consumers' Cell phone purchasing decision.

H3: Price has a positive effect on consumer's Cell phone purchasing decision.

H4: After sales services influence consumers' decision to acquire Cell phones.

H5: Cell phones features influence consumers' decision to acquire Cell phones.

## 3

#### . Materials and Methods

This research was conducted in Gazipur city. Gazipur District (dhaka division) area 1741.53 sq km, located in between 23°53' and 24°21' north latitudes and in between 90°09' and 92°39' east longitudes. It is bounded by Mymensingh and Kishoreganj districts on the north, Dhaka, Narayanganj and Narsingdi districts on the south, Narsingdi district on the east, Dhaka and Tangail districts on the west. Population Total 2031891; male 1067722, female 964169; Muslim 1872943, Hindu 137678, Buddhist 20124, Christian 235 and others 911. Indigenous communities such as

rajbangshi (Koach), garo, santal, Mandi, Bhangor and Nunia belong to this upazila. The study is aimed at identifying factors behind consumers' decision to purchase Cell phones in Gazipur city. The people in the Gazipur are mostly employees working for public, private or nongovernmental organizations. Hence, the study population constitutes of all the Cell phone owners found in Gazipur city. In order to select the respondents, simple sample random sampling method was employed. This method makes all the members of the population an equal chance to be included in the sample. Once a sampling technique has been chosen the next step is to calculate the appropriate size of the sample. The minimum required sample size for this study

is specified by using the Cochran (1977) sample size determination formula:

N = 
$$(\frac{z}{e})^2$$
 pq =  $(\frac{1.96}{0.05})$  (0.2) (0.8) = 230

In this study, both quantitative and qualitative data were used. The qualitative data was obtained from the primary sources of data. On the other hand, the quantitative data was collected from both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data was collected through administrating questionnaire. The secondary data was obtained from reports, manuals, and different journals, publications for assessing existing findings, internet, books and documents.

The main instrument of data collection was questionnaire. The structured questionnaire itself was designed so as to make it easy to answer and to cover most of the common research questions. Furthermore. the questionnaire was designed so as to elicit information on both demographic and product use aspects of the respondents. The questionnaire was translated in to local language (i.e. Amharic) for easy understanding and simplicity.

In this research project, the questionnaire was pre-tested on a number of respondents who were similar to those who were to be included in the study in terms of background characteristics in order to ensure that the instructions and the meanings of the questions were simple, clear, unambiguous and beneficial to the subjects. A total of six individuals were participated in the pilot study. Changes were made accordingly and the input of these individuals was taken into consideration.

To meet the specified research objectives, both qualitative and quantitative data

analysis were used for the study purpose. Both descriptive and inferential statistics methods of data analysis were employed. statistics frequency Descriptive like distributions, graphs, charts, crosstabulations and inferential statistics like correlation and multiple regressions was used to elicit meaningful information. The data entry and analysis was performed by using Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20.

## 4. Results and Discussion

During the survey, 246 questionnaires were distributed to purposively selected Cell phones shops (centers) in Gazipur town. Unfortunately 22 questionnaires were not responded appropriately. So the analysis was made based on 221 responded questionnaires. The table below deals with the basic demographic characteristics of the respondents including age, gender, income, marital status, educational qualification and occupation of the respondents included in this research project.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents'					
Item	Number	Percentage			
Age					
Below 18	21	9.1			
18 to 25	84	36.4			
26 to 35	81	35.1			
Above 35	45	19.5			
Gender Male					
	143	66.2			
Female	78	33.8			
Education Secondary School					
	24	10.4			
Diploma	51	22.1			
Degree	120	51.9			
Above Degree	36	15.6			
Occupation Student					
	72	31.2			
Self Employed	27	11.7			
Employed	132	54.5			
Unemployed	6	2.6			
Marital Status Single					
	147	63.6			
Married	75	32.5			
Divorced	9	3.9			
Income					
Below 500	54	23.4			
500 to 1,000	27	11.7			
1,000 to 3,000	57	24.7			
3,000 to 5,000	72	31.2			
5,000 to 10,000	12	5.2			
Above 10,000	9	3.9			
Total	221	100			

**T I I I D** 

Table 1 indicates that 9.1 percent of the respondents are below 18 years old, 36.4 percent of the respondents fall within the ages of 18 - 25 years, while 35.1 percent of the respondents' falls within 26 - 35 years and 19.5 percent of the respondents' falls above 35 years. Therefore, it indicates greater number of respondent falls within 18 to 25 years which represents 84 respondents and followed by 26 to 35 years which

represent 81 respondents. The table depicts 66 percent of the respondents are male and the rest 34 percent are females. It shows that the majority of the respondents are holders of first degree (65.8%) followed by diploma (21.6%), secondary (9.1%) and above first degree (3.5%) respectively. Accordingly, majority of the respondent are employees in public, private, government or nongovernmental organization representing

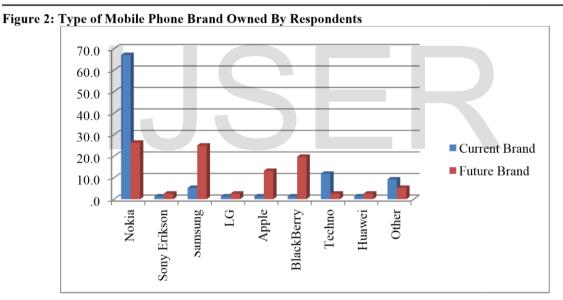
54% of the respondents followed by students (32%) and self-employed (13%). Moreover, there are few respondents considered as unemployed (1%).

Regarding marital status of the respondents, 64 percent of the respondents are single, 32 percent of them are married and the remaining 4 percent of the respondents are divorced. Moreover, table 1 shows that 54 of the respondents earns income below Br. 500 which represents 23.4%, it shows that 27 of the respondents earns income between Br. 500 - Br.1,000 which represents 11.7%, 57 out of 221 respondents earns income between Br. 1,000 - Br. 3,000 which represents 24.7%, 72 of the respondents earns income between Br. 3,000 - Br. 5,000

which represents 31.2%, 12 of the respondents earns income between Br. 5,000 - 10,000 which represents 5.2%, while 9 of the respondents earns income above Br. 10,000 which represents 3.9%.

#### 4.1Brand of Cell Phone Owned

The figure below exhibits the respondents' current handset usage and to what brand the consumers would prefer to change in the future. Accordingly, 67% of the respondents with overwhelming majority currently use Nokia Cell phones followed by Techno (11.8%), Other Chinese brands (9.2%) and Samsung (5.3%).



The least owned Cell brands are Sony Erikson, LG, Apple, BlackBerry and Huawei accounting together for 6.5% of the respondents' Cell phone ownership in Gazipur. Both Nokia and Techno offer variety phones with affordable prices that make them to be preferred by the buyers. Generally, the result of the study indicates Nokia is the dominant and widely owned Cell phone device in Gazipur.

Moreover, the above graph shows the preferred Cell phone brands respondents intends to purchase in the future period. Most respondents want to shift to Samsung in the future irrespective of what they are using right now. Nokia will be the dominant brand with 26% of the respondents continues to use but half of the current users planning to shift to other brands such as Samsung, Apple and BlackBerry. An interesting observation here is, among the current users

of Nokia, there are around 39% want to stay with the same brand while the remaining want to shift to other brands. Surprisingly, there is also a group of Nokia users (around 16%) which wants to shift to Samsung as their next handset and around 35% of the respondents want to shift either to Apple or BlackBerry. Demand for Nokia has been great in the Bangladesh market and seems will be quite good in declining demand pattern in the future. Moreover, the market looks promising for Cell phones with touch screen features like Samsung, Apple and BlackBerry. Descriptive Statistics Results of Independent Variables.

Table 2 portrays the descriptive statistics results (i.e. mean and standard deviation) results of the six independent variables. As shown in the table, the prime factor with the highest mean value is after sales service (mean = 3.6 and SD = 0.85) followed by brand name (mean = 3.448 SD = 0.84), product features (mean = 3.445 SD = 0.78) and durability (mean = 3.34 SD = 0.91) respectively. The two independent variables with the least mean score are price (mean =3.38 SD = 0.85) and social factors (mean = 3.03 SD = 0.89). The results indicate the performance of the variable in terms of the expectation of the consumer. Overall, the mean results are close to each other.

 Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation Results of Independent Variables

Variables	Frequency	Mean	Std. Dev.
Price	221	3.3822	.85174
Social Influence	221	3.0285	.88511
Durability	221	3.3422	.90862
Brand Name	221	3.4478	.84036
Product Features	221	3.4447	.78492
After Sales Service	221	3.6009	.85031

# **4.2 Pearson Correlation Result of the Variables**

Table 3 shows the correlation between six factors i.e. price, social influence, durability, brand, product features and after sales service with the decision to buy a Cell phone device. Accordingly, all factors have a positive and significant relationship with the decision to buy a Cell phone. However, the degree of correlation among the factors is different with the highest correlation value of price (0.900) followed by product feature

(0.876) durability (0.557) and brand image (0.555) of the Cell phone. In contrary, the least correlated factor is after sales service (0.454) followed by the social influences (0.461).

According to table 4.5, the highly correlated factor that influences the decision to acquire a Cell phone is the selling price of the cellular device. Accordingly, the price of a product is an important factor that cannot be overlooked in a study of consumer behavior. Majority of the respondents indicated price as main consideration when they decide to buy their Cell phone. The variation in Cell price will influence the behavior of individuals to purchase the device. The results of this research study coincide with the result of other studies conducted in the consumer purchasing decision of Cell phones. According to Saif (2012), a study conducted in Pakistan, price was valued as the most motivating factor in Cell purchase decision. Moreover, the study conducted by Pakola et al. (2010) in Finland regarded price as the most important motive affecting the decision to purchase Cell phones.

Variables		Decision to Buy		
Price	Pearson Correlation	.900**		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	Ν	221		
Social Influence	Pearson Correlation	.461**		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	Ν	221		
Durability	Pearson Correlation	.557**		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	Ν	221		
Brand Name	Pearson Correlation	.555**		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	Ν	221		
Product Feature	Pearson Correlation	.876**		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	Ν	221		
After Sales Service	Pearson Correlation	.454**		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	Ν	221		
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-				
tailed)				

 Table 3: Pearson Correlation Result of the Variable

The Cell phone feature is the second important factor correlated with the consumer decision to buy the device. Cell phone features include internet connection, Bluetooth, video, color, FM, media player, design, touch screen, store, size, available accessories, speaker and weight. All these factors considered to have relationship with the decision to buy the Cell devices. The results of this research study corresponds with previous researches conducted in other countries (Pakola et al., 2010; Das, 2012; Saif, 2012; Malasi, 2012; Eric and Bright, 2008) that considers the features of Cell phone as a dominant factor in consumer Purchasing decision. The other two factors equally correlated and have moderate relationships with the decision to buy are brand name and durability of Cell phones with Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.557 and 0.555 respectively. Both factors are highly associated with the quality of a given product. Durability is associated with the use of a Cell device for a long period without any defects. High quality Cell phone works well and nothing goes wrong for a long period of time. Other similar studies also indicated consumers prefer internationally that recognized and well-known brands of Cell phone (Das, 2012; Zhou and Shanturkovska, 2011). According the table 3, the least correlated moderately and related determinants of consumer Purchasing decisions are social influences and after sales services with Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.461 and 0.454 respectively. These two factors moderately influence the decision to buy a Cell phone device. However, their degree of correlation is the least as compared to other factors included in this study. This result can be justified with similar studies conducted on the factors affecting the choice (Subramanyam of Cell phones and Venkateswarlu, 2012; Pakola et al., 2010).

### 4.3Multiple Regressions Analysis

In this study, there are six independent variables namely price, after sales service, brand name, social influence, durability and product features considered to influence the Purchasing decision of Cell phone devices. Before analyzing the data using multiple regressions, it is appropriate to test the presence of multicollinearity among the independent variables. It indicated that the maximum correlation coefficient is 0.724 represent less likely to find that multicollinearity among the independent variable.

To test the effects of these variables on the decision to buy a Cell phone device, the study used the multiple regression analysis. The table below shows the multiple regression result between six independent variables and the decision to purchase a Cell phone device in Gazipur. It indicates that all the six independent variables (price, social influence, durability, brand name, product feature and after sales service) combined significantly influence the consumers Purchasing decision of Cell phone devices. The leading factor is price followed by product features and durability.

Table 4: Multiple Regression Results of Dependent and Independent Variables							
	Unstand Coeffici		Standardized Coefficients				
Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.		
(Constant)	694	.225		-3.089	.003		
Price	.589	.084	.525	7.028	.000		
Social Influence	.066	.053	.062	1.263	.211		
Durability	.112	.062	.107	1.826	.042		
Brand Name	.039	.069	.034	.569	.571		
Product Feature	.407	.097	.334	4.183	.000		
After Sales Services	.020	.054	.018	.381	.705		
Dependent Variable: Decision to Buy R Square: 0.881 Adjusted R Square: 0.870							

Table 4: Multiple Regression Results of Dependent and Independent Variables

The adjusted R2 of 0.87 indicates 87 percent of variances in consumer Purchasing decision can be predicted by the six variables used in this research study. Accordingly, there are other variables that influence Purchasing decision of individuals represented by the remaining 13 percent. But the majority of the variance in purchasing decision can be predicted by the six variables included in this study.

#### 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

#### **5.1Conclusions:**

The objective of this research was to investigate the underlying factors that determine the decision to purchase Cell phone devices. According to the study, majority of the consumers own Nokia Cell phones. Moreover, most of Nokia Cell phone users have a plan to shift to other brands such

Samsung, Apple and BlackBerry. as According the Pearson correlation results, price is the dominant factor affecting the decision to buy Cell phone. Secondly, the features incorporated in a Cell hand set are the most important factor which is considered bv the consumers while purchasing the Cell phone. However, all features of Cell phones are not equally important. The other factors equally correlated and have moderate relationships with the decision to buy are brand name and durability of Cell phones. Both the factors are highly associated with the quality of Cell phone devices. The least correlated factors are after sales service and social influences.

This study used multiple regressions analysis to test the effects of six independent variables (price, social influence, durability, brand name, product feature and after sales service) on the decision to buy a Cell phone device. All the six independent variables combined significantly influence the consumers purchasing decision of Cell phone devices. The leading factor is price followed by product features and durability.

## **5.2Recommendations:**

Nokia is still first in the Cell phone market but needs to keep abreast of technological changes as Samsung are taking market share away from Nokia. This loss of market share is partly due to Nokia's refusal to incorporate new technologies, and also to the improvement in quality in the manufacture of Samsung Cell phones. Each Cell phone manufacturer should carefully re-think its strategy when producing, marketing and distributing these devices and focus on brand personality, brand positioning, product design and differentiation.

People attracted towards newer technology and will be able to shift from one Cell phone

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Manufacturers of different Cell brands are improving on the durability and quality of the brand, they should also consider the price of selling it so as to make it affordable to all persons. It is recommended that companies concentrate more on developing quality and affordable Cell phones and spend more time on enhancing their products to offer it at lower prices which can be done by employing cost reduction measures

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