The AUST Journal of Science and Technology Vol. 3 No. 2 July 2011 (Published in January 2013)



Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

Editorial Board

Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam Treasurer, AUST

Prof. Dr M.A. Muktadir Head, Department of Architecture, AUST

> Prof. A.Z.M. Anisur Rahman Head, School of Business, AUST

Prof. Dr. Md. Anwarul Mustafa Head, Department of Civil Engineering, AUST

Prof. Dr. S. M. Abdullah Al-Mamun Head, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, AUST

Prof. Dr. Abdur Rahim Mollah Head, Department of Electrical & Electric Engineering, AUST.

Prof. Dr. Mustafizur Rahman Head, Department of Textile Engineering, AUST.

Prof. Dr. AFM Anwarul Haque Head, Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering, AUST.

> Prof. Dr. M. Shahabuddin Head, Department of Arts & Sciences, AUST

Editor

Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam Treasurer Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

Measuring Retail Service Quality from the Perspective of Bangladesh: A Case Study on Aarong

Md. Shak Forid^{*}

<u>Abstract :</u> Retail service quality in general need to be examined by observing the perception of customer towards the service rendered by the retailer and the impact of the service on customer satisfaction. The purpose of this research is to understand the perception of customers in relation to fashion and lifestyle product based retail service and assessing the impact of retail service quality on customer satisfaction. The research has been conducted on the customers of three retail outlets of Aarong in Dhaka city based on the structured questionnaire. The Retail Service Quality Scale (RSQS) of Dabalkar et al. (1996) with some modification has been adapted to measure service quality. Statistical measures like descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation and regression analysis have been used for statistical analysis. The finding indicates that the problem solving dimension of RSQS shows highest perception mean and the policy of the stores shows the poor performance. All of the dimensions show the positive influence on customer satisfaction.

Keywords: Retail Service Quality, Customer Satisfaction.

1. Introduction

We are using service every day. It is one of the most buzzwords in the business world. It is the product that is essentially intangible in nature. According to Kotler and Armstrong (2010), "service is a form of product that consists of activities, benefits, or satisfactions offered for sale that are essentially intangible and do not result in the ownership of anything. Examples are banking, hotel, airline, retail, wireless communication, and home repair services." Banking, hotel, wireless communication and home repair service are pure services. Retail service is the service that is being rendered with the physical product. Service is an economic activity that creates value and provides benefits for customers at specific times and places (Lovelock, 2001). Retailers render service by creating value and provide benefits in terms of making product available under a single roof, making pleasant environment to shop, facilitating easy and accessible shopping, ensuring reliable transaction and providing a social status to the customers.

One of the traditional businesses of Bangladesh is retail trade (Hussain and Ara, 2004). The giant business conglomerates, such as ACI Limited introduced 'Shwapno', of Bangladesh are diversifying their business into retail business. The retail industry has become more competitive just than a decade ago. And today's business organizations are very much customer oriented. For that they have to render services at all levels of business operation allied with the customers. Delivery of superior service quality has long been considered the basic retailing strategy (Berry, 1996; Parasuraman *et al.*, 1988; Cronin and Taylor, 1992). Focusing retail store service is the main decision area for the retail managers of this century. For this, the retailer has to understand real perception of the customers regarding rendered service for best meeting customer expectation and adjustment of the marketing strategy.

2. Literature Review

Service Quality

Service quality is the global judgment or attitude, relating to the superiority of the service (Parasuraman, Ziethamal and Berry, 1988). Service quality as one of all other service-marketing topics, has gained much research prominence in recent years (Schneider and White, 2004). Researchers have brought service quality on another level by exploring more possibilities to measure, analyze and conclude about service as an important topic to study (Xiao and Chernetskaya, 2010).

Most of the service quality definitions fall within the category- "customer led" (Ghobadian et al., 1994). According to Juran (1999), customers led quality are the "features of products which meet customers' needs and thereby provide customer satisfaction." Service quality is not only related to the features of the product but it is also related with its provider. According to Alamgir and Shamsuddoha (2004), "service quality is an assessment of the customer about how well the service fulfills their expectations in terms of perceptions of the service." Czepiel (1990) defined service quality as customer perception of how well a service meets or exceeds their expectations.

The difference between customers' expectation and their perceptions of the actual service received is viewed as the perceived service quality (Parasuraman et al., 1985). Other researchers look at 'perceived service quality' as an 'attitude' (Abu, 2004) which is defined as a psychological tendency of consumers that is expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favor or disfavor (Eagly & Chaiken, 1993).

^{*} Lecturer, School of Business, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Dhaka

Service Quality in Retailing

Service quality in retailing has been a topic of investigation for many years (Erasmus, 2010). Service quality in retailing is different from any other industry environment (Finn and lamb, 1991; Gagliano and Hathcote, 1994). In the past researchers have focused mainly on the quality of service (Siu and Chow).

Researchers of different countries have mainly studied on the retail service quality. One among the researchers, Parasuraman et al. (1988), published one of the earliest articles to measure the service quality of the retailers. Ravichandran et al. (2008) studied on service quality of the food retailers and concluded that it will lead to figure out the service quality in India. Xiao & Chernetskaya (2010) studied on service quality of sports store to find out how customers perceive the overall retail service quality and the result indicates that the customers are not satisfied with any dimension of service quality. Pan (2011) studied in the context of large-scale retail stores in Taiwan to examine the effects of consumer ethnocentrism on perceived service quality, perceived value, and loyalty.

A very few studies related to service quality is done in the context of Bangladesh in the banking & other industries. Shamsuddoha and Alamgir (2004) studied the loyalty and satisfaction of customer towards retail banking to identify the relationship between customer satisfaction and loyalty. Bhuiyan et al. (2008) studied on service quality in identifying the service quality of retail banking in Bangladesh. Siddiqi (2010) studied the interrelationships between service quality attributes, customer satisfaction and customer loyalty in the retail-banking sector in Bangladesh to identify the most important attributes in bank settings, which may be used to review characteristics of the banks as experienced by customers. Datta (2010) studied in the context of food retailing to investigate the customer retention in the context of relationship marketing. Siddiqui & Khandaker (2007) studied the comparative services provided by the different private and public hospitals in Bangladesh. Andaleeb (2008) studied service quality and patient satisfaction in the context of health services delivered to children in a developing country like Bangladesh.

Service Quality Measurement

The characteristics of service like Intangibility, Perishable, Inseparability and Heterogeneity make measuring service quality indefinable and abstract. Different scales for measuring service quality have been put forward by different marketing scholars. Parasuraman *et al.* (1988) have attempted to quantify the service quality issue by developing a measurable scale named SERVQUAL – which includes five dimensions: tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy. The SERVQUAL scale constitutes an important landmark in the service quality literature, which has been extensively applied in different service settings (Jain and Gupta, 2004). Alamgir and Shamsuddoha (2004) have developed SERVQUAL by adding the social responsibility as the sixth dimension along with five dimensions proposed by Parasuraman *et al.* (1988) in Bangladeshi service context but it was specially for banking service. SERVQUAL scale has successfully been applied in pure service setting like banking, long distance telephone service, securities brokerage and credit card service. However, it is not validated in retail service environment, as experience of retail service involves more than a non-retail service experience (Dabholkar *et al.*, 1996). Resulting that, Retail Service Quality Scale (RSQS) has been developed by Dabholkar *et al.* (1996) which consists of 28 items alienated in five dimensions – physical aspects, reliability, personal interaction, problem solving, and policy.

Boshoff and Terblanche (1997) studied on hypermarket shoppers in South Africa and found RSQS as a valid and reliable measure of retail service quality in different environment. Mehta et al. (2000) found the RSQS scale appropriate for measuring the service quality perceptions of consumers for a supermarket retailer in Singapore. Researchers, like Kim and Jin (2001, 2002) studied the US and Korean Customers and applied the RSQS to explore the differences in customer evaluations of service quality across nations and cultures. Siu and Cheung (2001) studied the service quality delivery of a chain departmental store in Hong Kong and reported empirical support for a six dimensional structure – personal structure, policy, physical appearance, promises, problem solving, and convenience. Abu (2004) studied the urban grocery retailers of various sizes in Malaysia and modified the instrument of Dabholkar *et al.* (1996) which includes 30 items alienated in five dimensions – physical aspects, reliability, inter-personal relationship, problem solving, and policy. Parikh (2005) applied the RSQS scale of Dabholkar *et al.* (1996) in measuring the service quality in the perspective of the gap between customers' expectations and perceptions in India. Parikh also approved the reliability of the RSQS instrument under Indian retail environment. Kaul (2005) also examined the RSQS instrument in a large format in the apparel stores sector under Indian retail environment and deleted the two items from the original 28 items proposed by Dabholkar *et al.* (1996) – 'Employees of the store treat customer courteously on the telephone' and 'the store has its own credit card' – as these are not applicable in Indian context.

Researchers of different courtiers measure the retail service quality by using the RSQS instrument; and this instrument has been found appropriate across different store types – supermarket, departmental stores, chain stores and hyper stores. Nevertheless, in the perspective of Bangladesh, still there exists a research gap which inspired the researcher to conduct the study.

3. Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- understanding customers' perception towards the services delivered by the fashion and lifestyle product retail outlets; and
- assessing the impact of retail service quality on customer satisfaction.

4. Methodology

In order to measure the service quality of the fashion and lifestyle based retail chain stores, a questionnaire was developed and applied which consists of three different parts. Part 1 elucidates 26 service quality statements under five dimensions – physical aspects (6 statements), reliability (5 statements), inter-personal relationship (8 statements), problem solving (3 statements), and policy (4 statements) developed Dabholkar *et al.* (1996). However, two statements of original model of 28 items of Dabholkar *et al.* (1996) were excluded in order to make it adjustable in the context of Bangladeshi retail environment which is supported by Kaul (2005) while adjusting in context of Indian retail environment. Part 2 elucidates questions about the personal and demographic background of the respondents – gender, marital status, age, education, occupation, and income. Finally Part 3 includes two questions to get the information about customer satisfaction. For all the statements of Part 1 and Part 3 a five-point Likert Scale was used in which 1 means 'strongly disagree' and 5 means 'strongly agree'.

The three stores were chosen from the main shopping areas of Dhaka city – (i) Aarong Centre, Tejgaon I/A, (ii) Aarong Flagship, Uttara and (iii) Aarong, Dhanmondi. From each of these Aarong retail outlets 40 random sample were taken which makes in total 120 (40×3) respondents. After the opening of outlets, every 5^{th} customer was chosen for the study. Prepared questionnaires were distributed to these randomly selected customers of the Aarong retail outlets and their views were recorded. The survey was carried out by a six-member group of investigators supervised by the researcher.

The demographic attributes of the respondent have been used for understanding respondents' profile (Appendix 1). These help to have a deeper insight about the significance of the ages, education levels, occupation, and income levels of the respondents.

The descriptive statistical measures were used to understand the perception mean of overall as well as store wise data to have better comparison of the three retail outlets. Further the Pearson correlation was used to understand the interrelationships among the dimensions of the RSQS. Finally, multiple regression analysis was done to determine the relative impact of each of the five service quality dimensions on customer satisfaction. For overall calculation, the statistical software SPSS 16.0 was used.

Validation of the Measuring Instrument

To test the reliability of the overall measuring instrument, the Cronbach's coefficient alpha was used. Cronbach's alpha ranges between 0 (i.e. no internal reliability) and 1 (i.e. perfect internal reliability).

Dimensions	No. of	Cronbach's				
Dimensions	Items	Alpha				
Overall Scale	26	0.821				
Physical Aspect (1-6)	6	0.782				
Reliability (7-11)	5	0.594				
Personal Interaction (12-19)	8	0.703				
Problem Solving (20-22)	3	0.331				
Policy (23-26)	4	0.512				

Table 1: Cronbach's Alpha Result of the RSQS

The result indicates that the retail service quality scale is reliable as the overall Cronbach alpha value is 0.821 (Table 1). The Cronbach's alpha values of the five service quality dimensions are 0.782 (Physical Aspect), 0.594 (Reliability), 0.73 (Personal Interaction), 0.331 (Problem Solving), and 0.512 (Policy). A minimum value of 0.70 was recommended by Nunnally (1978), but the value above 0.60 is satisfactory as recommended by Malhotra (2004). In this context, the result of two dimensions Pysical Aspect (0.782) and Personal Interaction (0.73) are reliable and the result of the dimension 'Reliability' is quite satisfactory as it is close to the value of 0.60. But the result of two other dimensions (Problem Solving and Policy) is less reliable as they have alpha value less than 0.60. However, as the overall reliability, 0.821, is far more than satisfactory, so the model is reliable for this study.

5. Findings and Analysis

In order to summarize and give the overall impression about service quality, the mean of the each of the perception items of RSQS was calculated (Appendix 2). The overall impression about the service quality shows strong points and poor performances of the retail stores. The analysis of the outcomes shows that the availability of the merchandise, courteousness when pertaining information about the time of rendering service and the parking service are performed poor. The analysis of outcomes further shows that the customers feel safe in their transactions with the stores. The stores insist on error-free sales transactions and records. Employees in the stores are consistently courteous with customers. Giving customers' individual attention, and having modern-looking equipment and fixtures are among top most performances.

Dimensions	sions Overall (N- 120) Aarong Centre – Tejgaon (N=40)		Overall (N- 120)Centre – TejgaonFlagship Outlet-Uttara		Aarong- Dhanmondi (N=40)
Physical Aspects	4.33	4.05	4.67	4.28	
Reliability	4.18	4.23	4.44	3.88	
Personal Interaction	4.39	4.52	4.57	4.09	
Problem Solving	4.46	4.66	4.33	4.40	
Policy	4.04	4.70	3.78	3.65	
Perception Mean of Scale	4.28	4.432	4.358	4.06	

Table 2: Perception Mean Of Different Stores of Aarong

Compare to the other two stores of retail chain, the Aarong Flagship Outlet has a good average on all the dimensions than other outlets except the policy dimension. This happened due to the unavailability of convenient parking facilities of Aarong Flagship Outlet, Uttara. The overall perceived mean value of the outlet at Dhanmondi is less than that of the perceived mean value of the other stores (Table 2). This means that the overall performance of Dhanmondi outlet is needed to be improved specially in the case of service that ensures reliability. The study reveals that the perception mean of the sub-dimension 'Doing It Right' is 3.84 due to the unavailability of goods when required by customers, and the service is not rendered satisfactorily at first attempt (Appendix 3). The service related to policy like the parking facilities need to be improved by means of ensuring available parking space and effective traffic management. At the same time the Aarong Centre-Tejgaon reveals similar low mean value (P10=2.30) regarding the availability of merchandise as required by the customers, and the Aarong Flagship Outlet-Uttara needs to be improved in the case of parking facilities which shows the mean value 2.45 (P24) that belongs to the Policy dimension (Appendix-3).

Table 5: Weath Value of Customer Batisfaction						
	Statements Under Customer	Mean	Std. E.			
	Satisfaction		Mean			
Customer	1. You are satisfied with your decision	4.39	.072			
Satisfaction	to purchase in Aarong.					
	2. Your feelings towards Aarong's	4.35	.076			
4.37)	services can best be described as					
	satisfied.					
N=120						

Table 3: Mean Value of Customer Satisfaction

The customer satisfaction consists of two statements describing the satisfaction on purchasing of Aarong's product and the satisfaction of customer in terms of feelings towards the rendered services. The mean value of customer satisfaction is 4.37 (Table 3), which indicates a good level of satisfaction towards the rendered services.

Table 4: Inter Item Correlation (Pearson Correlation) of Five Dimensions of RSQS Model

	Physical Aspects	Reliability	Personal Interaction	Problem Solving	Policy
Physical Aspects	1	.385**	.450**	.293**	286**
Reliability		1	.696**	.518**	.105
Personal Interaction			1	.585**	.112
Problem Solving				1	.331**
Policy					1
**Correlation	is significar	t at the 0.01 le	evel (1-tailed).		

The correlations between each of the dimensions of the RSQS model are positive except the correlation between the Physical Aspects and Policy (Table 4). The correlation between the dimensions is significant at the 0.01 level but there is an insignificant inter-correlation between Policy & Reliability, and Policy & Personal Interaction. The Physical Aspects and Policy are inversely correlated but statistically significant at 0.01 level (Table 4). This might happen due to the poor perception mean of convenient parking facilities (perception mean 3.04) under the Policy dimension. In the real world scenario, this happens due to the unavailability of the space to cover all the physical aspects of a retail shop and/or the outlets' poor policy regarding the parking facilities covering all the expectation of the customers. Further, as the survey was conducted before the EID-UL-FITR (one of the biggest religious festivals of Muslim), a huge number of customers came to shop for enjoying the religious festival.

satisfaction			
	Customer Satisfaction		
Physical Aspects	.374**		
Reliability	.467**		
Personal Interaction .478 ^{**}			
Problem Solving	.357**		
Policy	.079		
** Correlation is significant a	t the 0.01 level (1-tailed).		

 Table 5: Correlation of RSQS dimensions with customer satisfaction

The correlations between all five dimensions of RSQS and customer satisfaction are positive and statistically significant at the 0.01 level except policy dimension (Table-5). Table-5 shows that none of the dimensions is satisfactory as the values are less than the viable value 0.50 of the coefficient of correlation. The Policy dimension of RSQS model has the least coefficient of correlation. It means that the Policy dimension of RSQS Model has very insignificant contribution to the satisfaction of the customers.

	Dimensions	В	Std. error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Significant
	(Constant)	-0.324	0.800		-0.405	0.687
Relationship between the	Physical Aspects	0.296	0.135	0.213	2.184	0.031*
dimensions and Customer Satisfaction	Reliability	0.312	0.161	0.218	1.942	0.055
	Personal Interaction	0.340	0.208	0.199	1.635	0.105
	Problem Solving	0.044	0.122	0.038	0.360	0.720
	Policy	0.103	0.116	0.082	0.890	0.376
	Adjusted R So	quare= 0.20	65, *p<0.0	5		

Table 6: Multiple Regression	Table	6:	Multip	le Reg	ression
-------------------------------------	-------	----	--------	--------	---------

The multiple regression analysis (Table 6) was done to understand the relative impact of each of the dimensions of RSQS on customer satisfaction. In case of the relationship between five dimensions and the Customer Satisfaction, the adjusted R square is 0.265. It means that the five dimensions of RSQS model explained 26.5% variation in customer satisfaction. The physical aspects (beta 0.213) is found to have a significant influence on the customer satisfaction, but all other dimensions: reliability (beta 0.218), personal interaction (beta 0.199), problem solving (beta 0.038), and policy (beta 0.082), have insignificant influence on the customer satisfaction at 0.05 level of significance (Table 6).

6. Recommendation

The analysis of the survey data and the findings show that the services rendered by the retail outlets of Aarong do not satisfy the customers as expected. The services of Aarong Centre -Tejgaon seems to be a little better than other two outlets. Among the three outlets the services of Aarong-Dhanmondi are worse, and among the dimensions of RSQS model the services those include Policy are most dissatisfactory. On the whole, the following suggestions can be made conclusively for the improvement of the services and customer satisfaction:

- Convenient parking facilities for the customers must be ensured, and effective & friendly traffic management be ensured;
- Availability of merchandizing must be ascertained;
- The layout of the stores must be so rearranged that the finding out of commodities are convenient;
- The layout of the stores must be so rearranged that the wandering on the floor of the stores is convenient, comfortable, and pleasant;
- The wares of the store must be visual so that they could easily be found out; and
- The overall performance of the Aarong-Dhanmondi has to be considerably promoted.

7. Conclusion

Retail service quality has long been the most research topic for the marketing scholars as well for the retailers to understand the customers' shopping experience. This research study shows that the level of perceived service quality and its impact on customer satisfaction. The Problem Solving dimension shows the highest perception mean, indicating that customers are satisfied with the service such as willingness to handle returns and exchange, showing sincere interest in solving customers' problem, and ability of the employees to handle the customers' complaints. The parking facility of the stores especially at Aarong Flagship Outlet-Uttara and Aarong-Dhanmondi outlets is poor in performance. The study found no significant correlation between policy dimension and overall customer satisfaction. And the physical aspects dimension is the significantly strongest association in customer satisfaction.

Future Research Opportunity

The limitation of the study can best be explained in terms of: (i) the study does not show general scenario of all the retail stores especially fashion and lifestyle retail, (ii) the study consists of only a limited 26 items to measure service quality, (iii) a limited sample size of 120 respondents, (iv) the questionnaire consists of scaled questions, and (v) the survey conducted just a week before the EID festival in the month of August'2011. Finally, the application of RSQS is subject to some criticism in Bangladeshi retail environment.

Further research should be carried out to understand more on the retail service quality vis. why customers are not satisfied with the particular retail service. Restructuring of the RSQS model is needed to be done to best-fit in the Bangladeshi retail environment.

	0	Appendix 1: Demo		-	Cumulative
Gender Female 55 45.8 100.0 Marital Unmarried 67 55.8 55.8 Status Married 53 44.2 100.0 Below 20 12 10.0 10.0 20 - 30 70 58.3 68.3 30 - 40 32 26.7 95.0 40 - 50 4 3.3 98.3 50 - 60 1 .8 99.2 60 and Above 1 .8 100.0 Education Secondary 6 5.0 5.0 Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Secondary 10 8.3 13.3 Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 <t< td=""><td>C</td><td>ategory</td><td>Frequency</td><td>Percent</td><td>Percent</td></t<>	C	ategory	Frequency	Percent	Percent
Female 55 45.8 100.0 Marital Status Unmarried 67 55.8 55.8 Maried 53 44.2 100.0 Below 20 12 10.0 10.0 20 - 30 70 58.3 68.3 30 - 40 32 26.7 95.0 40 - 50 4 3.3 98.3 50 - 60 1 .8 99.2 60 and Above 1 .8 100.0 Education Secondary 6 5.0 5.0 Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Secondary 0 8.3 13.3 Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5	Condon	Male	65	54.2	54.2
StatusMarried 53 44.2 100.0 Below 2012 10.0 10.0 $20 - 30$ 70 58.3 68.3 $30 - 40$ 32 26.7 95.0 $40 - 50$ 4 3.3 98.3 $50 - 60$ 1 $.8$ 99.2 60 and Above 1 $.8$ 99.2 60 and Above 1 $.8$ 100.0 EducationSecondary 6 5.0 5.0 Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 MonthlyTk $1000 - 25,000$ 25 20.8 Tk $25,000 - 55$ 45.8 66.7 Tk $50,000 - 1,00,000$ 28 23.3 90.0 Tk $1,00,000$ and above 12 10.0 100.0	Genuer	Female	55	45.8	100.0
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Marital Unmarried		67	55.8	55.8
Age $ \frac{20 - 30}{30 - 40} $ $ 70$ $ 58.3$ $ 68.3$ $ 30 - 40$ $ 32$ $ 26.7$ $ 95.0$ $ 40 - 50$ $ 4$ $ 3.3$ $ 98.3$ $ 50 - 60$ $ 1$ $.8$ $ 99.2$ $ 60$ and Above $ 1$ $.8$ $ 99.2$ $ 60$ and Above $ 1$ $.8$ $ 99.2$ $ 60$ and Above $ 1$ $.8$ $ 99.2$ $ 60$ and Above $ 1$ $.8$ $ 99.2$ $ 60$ and Above $ 1$ $.8$ $ 100.0$ $ 8ccondary$ $ 6$ $ 5.0$ $ 5.0$ $ Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Becondary 10 8.3 13.3 Becondary 10 8.3 13.3 Becondary 50.0 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Occupation Retired 0 0 48.3$	Status	Married	53	44.2	100.0
Age 30 - 40 32 26.7 95.0 40 - 50 4 3.3 98.3 50 - 60 1 .8 99.2 60 and Above 1 .8 100.0 Secondary 6 5.0 5.0 Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Secondary 10 8.3 13.3 Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 25 20.8 66.7 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0	Age	Below 20	12		10.0
Age $40 - 50$ 43.398.3 $50 - 60$ 1.899.2 60 and Above1.8100.0 60 and Above1.8100.0 $Factors65.05.0HigherSecondary108.313.3Factors108.313.3Factors108.313.3Factors108.313.3Factors108.313.3Factors108.313.3Factors10100100.0Factors108.313.3Factors101210.0Factors10100.0Factors1310.8Factors1310.8Factors1714.2Factors100.025Factors100.0Factors100.0Factors100.0Factors100.0Factors12Factors10.0Factors12Factors100.0$		20 - 30	70	58.3	68.3
40 - 50 4 5.3 98.3 50 - 60 1 .8 99.2 60 and Above 1 .8 100.0 60 and Above 1 .8 100.0 Secondary 6 5.0 5.0 Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Secondary 10 8.3 13.3 Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 25,000 - 55,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 25 20.8 20.8 66.7 Monthly Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 <t< td=""><td>30 - 40</td><td>32</td><td>26.7</td><td>95.0</td></t<>		30 - 40	32	26.7	95.0
60 and Above 1 .8 100.0 Secondary 6 5.0 5.0 Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Secondary 10 8.3 13.3 Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 55 45.8 66.7 J,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0	Age	40 - 50	4	3.3	98.3
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $		50 - 60	1	.8	99.2
Education Higher 10 8.3 13.3 Level Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 and above 28 23.3 90.0		60 and Above	1	.8	100.0
Education Level Secondary 10 8.5 13.5 Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 Retired 0 0 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0		Secondary	6	5.0	5.0
Level Under Graduate 39 32.5 45.8 Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0		•	10	8.3	13.3
Graduate 60 50.0 95.8 Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 Occupation Retired 0 0 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0		5	39	32.5	45.8
Post Graduate 5 4.2 100.0 Service 45 37.5 37.5 Self-employed 13 10.8 48.3 Retired 0 0 48.3 House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0			60		
Self-employed1310.848.3OccupationRetired0048.3House wife1714.262.5Students4537.5100.0Monthly Household IncomeTk 1000 - 25,0002520.8Tk 25,000 - 50,0005545.866.7Tk 50,000 - 1,00,0002823.390.0Tk 1,00,000 and above1210.0100.0			5		
OccupationRetired0048.3House wife1714.262.5Students4537.5100.0MonthlyTk 1000 - 25,0002520.820.8Tk 25,000 - 50,0005545.866.7Tk 50,000 - 1,00,0002823.390.0Tk 1,00,000 and above1210.0100.0		Service	45	37.5	37.5
OccupationRetired0048.3House wife1714.262.5Students4537.5100.0MonthlyTk 1000 - 25,0002520.820.8Tk 25,000 - 50,0005545.866.7Tk 50,000 - 1,00,0002823.390.0Tk 1,00,000 and above1210.0100.0		Self-employed	13	10.8	48.3
House wife 17 14.2 62.5 Students 45 37.5 100.0 Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0	Occupation		0	0	48.3
Monthly Tk 1000 - 25,000 25 20.8 20.8 Monthly Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Household Income Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0	_	House wife	17	14.2	
Monthly Household Income Tk 25,000 - 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0		Students	45	37.5	100.0
Monthly Household Income 50,000 55 45.8 66.7 Tk 50,000 - 1,00,000 28 23.3 90.0 Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0			25	20.8	20.8
Income In 50,000 28 23.3 90.0 $1,00,000$ Tk 1,00,000 and above 12 10.0 100.0		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	55	45.8	66.7
Tk 1,00,000 and above1210.0100.0	Household	-	28	23.3	90.0
N=120		Tk 1,00,000 and	12	10.0	100.0
	N=120	•	· ·		-

Appendix 1: Demography of the Respondents

Source: Primary Data

Appendix 2: Perception Means of RSQS Items

Retail Service Quality Dimensions	Retail Service Quality Sub-dimensions	Perception Items	Mean	Std. E. Mean
		P 1. The store has modern-looking equipment and fixtures.	4.63	.060
		P2. The physical facilities (trial rooms and restrooms) at this store are visually appealing.	4.37	.064
	Appearance	P3. Materials associated with this store (such as shopping bags, catalogs, or statement) are visually appealing.	4.25	.067
(1100111100)		P4. The store has clean, attractive and convenient public areas (restrooms, fitting rooms).	4.45	.070
		P5. The store layout at this store makes it easier for customers to find what they need.	4.11	.077
(Mean 4.18)	Convenience	P6. The store layout at this store makes it easier for customers to move around in the store.	4.18	.103
		P7. When this store promises to do something (such as repairs or alterations) by a certain time, it will do so.	4.38	.070
Reliability	Promises	P8. This store provides its services at the time it promises to do so.	4.42	.064
		P9. This store performs the service effectively first time.	4.23	.080
(Mean 4.16)	Doing it right	P10. This store has merchandise available when the customers want it.	3.08	.122
		P11. This store insists on error-free sales transactions and records.	4.82	.054
		P12. Employees in the store have the knowledge to answer customers' questions.	4.51	.060
	Inspiring Confidence	P13. The behavior of employees in this store instills confidence in customers.	4.44	.062
		P14. Customers feel safe in their transactions with this store.	4.84	.041
		P15. Employees in this store give prompt service to customers.	4.47	.055
	Courteousness/ Helpfulness	P16. Employees in this store tell customers exactly when services will be performed.	2.91	.143
(Mean 4.39)		P17. Employees in this store are never too busy to respond to customer's requests.	4.61	.055
		P18. This store gives customers individual attention.	4.64	.064
		P19. Employees in this store are consistently courteous with customers.	4.73	.063
		P20. This store willingly handles returns and exchanges.	4.49	.269
Problem Solving (Mean 4.46)		P21. When a customer has a problem, this store shows a sincere interest in solving it	4.53	.066
		P22. Employees of this store are able to handle customer complaints directly and immediately.	4.37	.076
		P23. This store offers high quality merchandise.	4.58	.073
Policy		P24. This store provides plenty of convenient parking for customers.	3.04	.128
(Mean 4.04)		P25. This store has operating hours convenient to all their customers.	4.43	.088
Policy (Mean 4.04)		P26. This store accepts most major credit cards.	4.12	.087

Appendix3 : Perception means of RSQS Items	for Aarong Centre- Teig	gaon, Aarong Flagship Outlet-	Uttara, and Aarong-Dhanmondi

			Aarong Centre – Tejgaon (N=40)		Aarong Flagship Outlet- Uttara (N=40)		Aarong-Dhanmondi (N=40)	
Retail Service Quality Dimensions	Retail Service Quality Sub-dimensions	Perception Items	(14	540)	C(1111 (((-+0))			
			Mean	Std. E. Mean	Mean	Std. E. Mean	Mean	Std. E. Mean
		P 1. The store has modern-looking equipment and fixtures.	4.58	.094	4.88	.053	4.43	.138
	Appearance	P2. The physical facilities (trial rooms and restrooms) at this store are visually appealing.	4.30	.082	4.70	.073	4.10	.142
Physical Aspects	Aarong Centre-4.35 Aarong Flagship Outlet-4.7 Aarong Dhanmondi-4.23	P3. Materials associated with this store (such as shopping bags, catalogs, or statement) are visually appealing.	4.25	.100	4.50	.124	4.00	.113
		P4. The store has clean, attractive and convenient public areas (restrooms, fitting rooms).	4.25	.117	4.70	.073	4.40	.151
	Convenience	P5. The store layout at this store makes it easier for customers to find what they need.	3.77	.131	4.45	.129	4.10	.123
	Aarong Centre-3.45 Aarong Flagship Outlet- 4.63 Aarong Dhanmondi-4.36	P6. The store layout at this store makes it easier for customers to move around in the store.	3.12	.187	4.80	.064	4.62	.122
hysical Aspect		1	4.05		4.67		4.28	<u>.</u>
	Promises	P7. When this store promises to do something (such as repairs or alterations) by a certain time, it will do so.	4.68	.083	4.55	.101	3.90	.138
Reliability Aarong Plagship Outlet-4-59 Aarong Dhanmondi-3-395 Doing it right Aarong Centre-3-95	P8. This store provides its services at the time it promises to do so.	4.63	.093	4.62	.093	4.00	.119	
	P9. This store performs the service effectively first time.	4.63	.106	4.45	.124	3.62	.132	
	P10. This store has merchandise available when the customers want it.	2.30	.176	3.62	.214	3.32	.187	
	Aarong Flagship Outlet- 4.35 Aarong Dhanmondi-3.84	P11. This store insists on error-free sales transactions and records.	4.92	.042	4.98	.025	4.57	.147
Reliability			4.23		4.44		3.88	
	Inspiring Confidence	P12. Employees in the store have the knowledge to answer customers' questions.	4.75	.069	4.63	.085	4.15	.127
	Aarong Centre- 4.85	P13. The behavior of employees in this store instills confidence in customers.	4.82	.061	4.58	.101	3.92	.104
	Aarong Flagship Outlet-4.67 Aarong Dhanmondi- 4.26	P14. Customers feel safe in their transactions with this store.	4.98	.025	4.85	.067	4.70	.096
Personal Interaction	Courteousness/	P15. Employees in this store give prompt service to customers.	4.60	.078	4.62	.093	4.18	.101
	Helpfulness	P16. Employees in this store tell customers exactly when services will be performed.	3.00	.215	3.40	.265	2.32	.236
	Aarong Centre- 4.33 Aarong Flagship Outlet- 4.50	P17. Employees in this store are never too busy to respond to customer's requests.	4.45	.087	4.85	.067	4.53	.113
	Aarong Dhanmondi-3.99	P18. This store gives customers individual attention.	4.73	.080	4.80	.073	4.40	.151
		P19. Employees in this store are consistently courteous with customers.	4.85	.067	4.85	.067	4.50	.160
ersonal Intera	ction	•	4.52		4.57		4.09	
Problem Solving		P20. This store willingly handles returns and exchanges.	4.58	.123	4.05	.152	4.85	.785
Toblem Solving		P21. When a customer has a problem, this store shows a sincere interest in solving it	4.75	.078	4.53	.107	4.32	.140
		P22. Employees of this store are able to handle customer complaints directly and immediately.	4.65	.084	4.42	.123	4.02	.158
Problem Solving	5		4.66		4.33		4.40	
		P23. This store offers high quality merchandise.	4.88	.053	4.43	.123	4.43	.164
Policy		P24. This store provides plenty of convenient parking for customers.	4.40	.093	2.45	.193	2.28	.183
		P25. This store has operating hours convenient to all their customers.	4.85	.105	4.30	.144	4.15	.177
		P26. This store accepts most major credit cards.	4.68	.115	3.95	.138	3.75	.15
Policy	:	:	4.70		3.78		3.65	
			1	1				1

References:

Abu, Nor Khalidah (2004). "Service Quality Dimensions: A Study on Various Sizes of Grocery Retailers – A conceptual Paper." Proceeding of IBBC, 633-642.

Alamgir, M. and Mohammad Shamsuddoha (2004). "Service Quality Dimensions: A conceptual Analysis." The Chittagong University Journal of Business Administration, Vol. 19.

Andaleeb, Syed (2008). "Caring for children: a model of healthcare service quality in Bangladesh." International Journal for Quality in Health Care, 20 (5), 339-345.

Berry, L.L. (1986). "Retail Businesses are Service Businesses." Journal of Retailing, 62 (Spring), 3-6.

Bhuiyan, Md. Tabarak Hossain; Nazrul Islam; and Jashim Uddin Ahmed (2008). "Service Quality in Retail Banking of Private Commercial Banks in Bangladesh." International Conference on Global Commerce, Energy, Minerals, and the Environment (organized by Global Commerce Forum, Arvada), Tropicana Hotel Las Vegas, USA, October 20-22, 2008.

Boshoff, Christo and Nic Terblanche (1997). "Measuring retail service quality: A replication study." South African Journal of Business Management, 28 (December), 123-128

Cronin, J.J. and S.A. Taylor (1992). "Measuring Service Quality: A Reexamination and Extension." Journal of Marketing 56(July): 55-68.

Czepiel, J. A. (1990). "Service encounters and service relationships: Implications for research." Journal of Business Research, 20, 13-21.

Dabholkar, P. A.; D. I. Thorpe; and J. O. Rentz (1996). 'A measure of service quality for retail stores: scale development and validation', Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science, vol. 24, no. 1, 3-16.

Datta, Palto R (2010). "An Examination into Customer Relationship Marketing and Customer Retention in Grocery food retaing in Bangladesh: Proposed Research Agenda" - International Trade & Academic Research Conference (ITARC) - London 2010

Eagly, A. H. and S. Chaiken (1993). 'The psychology of attitudes'. Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Erasmus, Prof AC (2010). "Customer service in appliance sales departments of selected prominent retail outlets: store manager, sales personnel and customer perspectives." Journal of Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences, Vol. 38, ISSN 0378-5254.

Finn, David W and Charles Lamb Jr. (1991). "An Evaluation of the SERVQUAL Scales in a Retailing Setting," Advances in Consumer Research, 18 (1), 483-490

Gagliano, K.B. and Jan Hathcote (1994). "Customer Expectations and Perceptions of Service Quality in Retail Apparel Specialty Stores," Journal of Services Marketing, 8 (1), 60-69.

Ghobadian, A.; S. Speller; & M. Jones (1994). "Service quality: concepts and models." International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management, 11 (9), 43-66.

Hussain, Sayed Sarwer and Ferdousi Ara (2004). "Bangladesh Retail Food Sector Report 2004" Global Agriculture Information Network, p-3.

Jain, Sanjay K. and Garima Gupta (2004). "Measuring Service Quality: SERVQUAL vs. SERVPERF Scales," Vikalpa, Vol. 29, No.2, April-June, 25-37.

Juran, J.M. (1999). "How to Think About Quality." In Juran, J. M., and Godfrey, A. B. (Eds.), Juran's Quality Handbook (p. 2.1 – 2.3.). 5th Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Kaul, Subhashini (2005). "Measuring Retail Service Quality: Examining Applicability of International Research Perspective in India", Research and Publication, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, October, W.P. No. 2005-10-02.

Kim, S. and Jin , B . (2001). "An evaluation of the retail service quality scale for U.S. and Korean customers of discount stores." Advances of Consumer Research (28), 169 - 176.

Kim, Soyoung and Byoungho Jin (2002). "Validating the retail service quality scale for US and Korean customers of discount stores: an exploratory study", Journal of Services Marketing, Vol. 16 Iss: 3, 223 – 237.

Kotler, Philip and Gray Armstrong (2010). "Principles of Marketing", 13th edition, p-224.

Lovelock, Cristopher H. (2001). "Service Marketing: People, Technology, Strategy", 4th edition, p-3.

Malhotra, N. K. (2004). Marketing Research: An Applied Orientation. 4th Edition, Prentice-Hall, Inc. USA, ISBN- 81-203-2744-5, p-268.

Mehta, Subhash C.; Ashok Lalwani; and Soon Li Han (2000). "Service quality in retailing: relative efficiency of alternative measurement scales for different product-service environments," International Journal of Retail & Distribution Management, 28 (2), 62-72.

Nunnally, J. C. (1978). Psychometric Theory. Second Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., P-245.

Pan, Frank F. C. (2011). "Are the foreign stores more valuable than the local? A regional survey on large-scale retailers in Taiwan." African Journal of Business Management, Vol. 5(6), 2455-2464, ISSN 1993-8233.

Parasuraman, A.; V. A. Zeithaml; and L.L. Berry (1985). "A conceptual model of service quality and its implications for future research." Journal of Marketing, 49, Fall, 41-50.

Parasuraman, A .; V. A . Zeithaml; and L. L.Berry (1988). "SERVQUAL: A Multiple Item Scale for Measuring Consumer Perceptions of Service Quality." Journal of Retailing. Vol. 64 (Spring), 12-40.

Parikh, Darshan (2005). "Measuring Retail Service Quality: An Empirical Study in a Developing Country", South Asian Journal of Management, April-Jun Issue.

Ravichandran, K.; David Sam Jayakumer; and K. Abdus Samad (2008). "Service Quality: Food Retail." SCMS Journal of Indian Management, July-September, 25-41.

Schneider, Benjanim and Susan White (2004). "Service Quality - Research Perspectives", Foundations for Organizational Science, California, USQ: Sage Publications Inc.

Shamsuddoha, Mohammad and Mohammad Alamgir (2004). "Loyalty and Satisfaction Construct in Retail Banking-An Empirical Study on Bank Customers." The Chittagong University Journal of Business Administration, Vol. 19.

Siddiqi, Kazi Omar (2010). "Interrelations between service quality attributes, customer satisfaction and customer loyalty in the retail banking sector in Bangladesh." International Trade & Academic Research Conference (ITARC) - London 2010.

Siddiqui, Nazlee and Shahjahan Ali Khandaker (2007). "Comparison of Services of Public, Private and Foreign Hospitals from the Perspective of Bangladeshi Patients." Journal of Health, Population, and Nutrition, June 25(2), 221–230.

Siu, Noel Y. M.; and J. Tak-Hing Cheung (2001). "A measure of retail service quality." Marketing Intelligence and Planning , 19/2 , 88-96, ISSN 0263-4503.

Siu, Noel Y. M. and Ka-Hung Chow. "A Study of Service Quality in Grocery Retailing." BRC Working Papers, School of Business, Business Research Centre, Hong Kong Baptist University. WP200222.

Webster, C. (1989). "Can Consumer be Segmented on the Basis of their Service Quality Expectation?", Journal of Service Marketing, Vol. 3, Spring, 73-80.

Xiao, J. and Julia Chernetskaya (2010). "Measuring Retail Service Quality in Sport Stores by Using RSQS Model: A case study of Stadium in Helsinki." Master thesis, Autumn semester 2010, Umeå School of Business, P-1.