

# Determinants of Customers' Acceptance of Electronic Payment System in Indian Banking Sector – A Study

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**Abstract** - Internet is perhaps one of the most important tools to businesses and individuals in the recent world economy. Globalization, financial liberalization and technology revolution have opened the door of new and more efficient delivery and processing channels as well as more innovative product and services in banking industry. With increased educational qualification and growing wealth consumers' need and expectations are continually changing and they are involving themselves more and more in their financial decisions. After deregulation and reforms in Indian Banking scenario payment systems like Debit Card, Credit Card, ECS, EFT, RTGS, NEFT have offered variety of services to the customers. Despite the growth of electronic payment system over physical check-based system, its rate of adoption in India especially in Metro cities like Kolkata has been relatively slow. Its slow adoption rates raise many questions.. The aim of the study is to determine the factors influencing consumer's adoption on the light of **Technology Acceptance Model**. Survey based questionnaires are designed and Factor Analysis is used to find reliable and consistent factors. Proposed model illustrates the level of fulfillment of each acceptance factors and therefore predicts its adoption and indicates areas of improvement.

**Index Terms** – Customers' attitude, Internet connectivity, Perceived usefulness, Perceived ease of use, Perceived risk, Perceived credibility, Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The worldwide proliferation of Internet has given birth of Electronic payment system which is "the use of debit and credit cards on the Internet or other electronic devices to perform daily transactions which include paying for goods and services, transfer of money and bill payments at any time of the day", stated Gholami et. al. (2010) with Andam(2003, [1]). Electronic payment offers the benefit of acquiring and using goods and services without paying for them with cash, thus removing the burden of carrying cash (Fosent et. al. 2010, [3]). Electronic payment the term was first used by IBM's marketing and Internet team in 1996(Amor, 1999, [4]). By Electronic payment systems refer to various innovative applications and approaches including the use of credit card, debit card, Automated Teller Machine(ATM), Electronic Fund Transfer(EFT), online payment that are used to facilitate customer's decision to pay for a product or services (Vassilious,2004, [2]). Research indicated that use of electronic payment are largely influenced by demographic characteristics of users such as gender, age, education level, income, marital status, culture and attitude towards debt ((Abdul-Muhmin and Umar, 2007; Wickramasinghe & Gurugamage, 2009, [7]).

After globalization, financial liberalization and economic reform during the last two decade Indian banks have

adopted various E-banking techniques to strengthen their financial position. According to the report of RBI, during the last two decade all the electronic mode of payment have shown better growth than the physical check based system [5]. Manoharan (2007,[8]) highlighted the impact of Electronic payment system on Indian Banking sector. Payment system in India has been divided into three parts, i.e., large value payment system, retail payment system, and retail electronic system.

In the country like India where 90% of its population rely on conventional payment system i.e. physical cash and check rather than electronic payment, it is not so simple to consider and decide on the basis of cost and benefit of using E-payment system [5]. Majority of people are still reluctant to deal with Electronic payment because of security and privacy concern [8]. In the course of preparing this research paper, we had the privilege of visiting few remote places of south bengal to find out the perceptions of people about electronic payment system. It was observed that most of the people have not a common knowledge about Internet- its operation and usage. About Electronic payment, they hardly know operation of ATM. People are quite far from all the ICT developments taking place in banking. Even in metro cities 60% people rely on traditional payment instruments. Even for large value payments, like sale and

purchase of land and building, people prefer physical cash rather than receiving any other form of payment.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The paradigm shift from manual to technology enabled banking delivery channel was first introduced in Finland in 1996. As per the latest result 84 percent of Finns use Internet today, among them 64 percent are user of internet banking [13]. More than 50 million of the US adult population is banking online according to a new survey by the Pew Internet and American Life Project Evolving Technology Trends in Indian Banking Sector 33. In US the biggest transformation occurred between 2003 to 2006 [6]. Survey on internet banking in U. K. by Forrester Research during 2007 showed that about 31 percent of British adults use online payment system. This is despite the fact that about two thirds (67%) of the British are regular users of the internet [7]. Ahmad Bello (2005) investigated the impact of e-banking especially "how e-payments are satisfying the customers" in Nigeria [9]. Andoh-Baidoo and Osatuyi (2009) in their study illustrated that Nigerian banks are not taking advantage of the full spectrum of e-payment features because of some challenges especially inadequate power supply and telecommunication [10]. Baten and Kamil (2010) determined the economic prospects of e-banking as well as demonstrating the scope and benefits of e-payments in Bangladesh [9]. Salehi and Alipour (2010) examined e-banking and e-payments in an emerging economy seeking to provide empirical evidence from Iran[12]. As per the report of consulting firm Celent, India, indicates that, the value of retail E-payments in India has reached US \$150 billion to US \$180 billion by the end of 2010 [11].

In the works of Taylor and Todd (1995) and Gefen and Straub (1997), it was found that gender has a direct influence on adoption of technology with men and women having different rates of computer technologies adoption [12]. Gikandi and Bloor (2009) used time series data to investigate the determinants of adoption and influence of e-commerce involving 90% of the retail banks in Kenya. Olatokun and Igbindion (2009) used diffusion of innovation (DOI) theory to investigate the adoption of Automatic Teller Machines in Nigeria [17]. James (2012) used Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to

investigate the acceptance of E-banking in Nigeria. The result shows that acceptance of is significantly influenced by Age, Educational Background, Income, Perceived Benefits, Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Risk and Perceived Enjoyment [15].

### 2.1 TAM and related studies

Here we will investigate the factors determining the acceptance of Electronic payment customers in the light of Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) (Davis, 1989) and Roger's Diffusion of Innovation (DOI) theory (Rogers, 1983, [30]). Using Technology Acceptance Model Pikkareinan et. al. (2004, [30]) opined that Perceived Usefulness (PU) and Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU) among other factors significantly affect the acceptance of E-payment. Other factors being: Perceived Risk, Trust, Security and privacy etc. Using the DOI theory, Lee and Lee (2000, [17]) investigated the factors influencing the adoption of various Electronic-payment technologies. Tan & Teo (2000, [30]) discovered that adopted four attitudinal constructs of the DOI theory: relative advantage, compatibility, complexity and trialability, as part of their research model. They found that relative advantage, compatibility, and trialability significantly affected the intention to use Internet banking, whereas complexity was not significant. TAM is based on the theory of reasoned action (TRA) (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975; Ajzen and Fishbein, 1980, [7]).

**Perceived Usefulness (PU)** is defined as the degree to which a person believes that using a particular system would enhance his or her job performance.

**Perceived Ease Of Use (PEOU)** is defined as the extent to which a person believes that using a particular system will be free from effort.

### **Perceived Risk, Trust, Security and Privacy**

Perceived Risk is very much close to Perceived Security and privacy. Still people have fear in doing E-payment transaction, as they are concerned with security and privacy aspects of such system. It is noted that although consumer's confidence in their bank was strong, yet their confidence in the technology was weak.

**Perceived Credibility** is defined as the extent that a user using the system should carry out a transaction securely and maintain the privacy of personal information against unauthorized access. According to Hanudin (2007), perceived credibility is a determinant of behavioral intention to use an information system.

#### **Customer attitude**

Attitudes as defined Davis (1989) and Karjaluoto et al., (2002) are the users' desirability to use the system. It reveals the perceptions of usefulness, credibility and individual preferences (Jahangir et al., 2007). Consumer's attitude is argued to have a strong, direct and positive effect on consumers' intention to actually use new information system (Jahangir, et al., 2007).

### **3. OBJECTIVES & HYPOTHESIS**

The main objectives of this study are to:

- (a) Finding of most influencing factors among the factors that influence the customers' adoption of electronic payment services in India
- (b) Finding the most popular electronic payment system among various electronic payment options.
- (c) Study the level of awareness and usage of E-payment techniques among different age group, different income group with their educational level by demographic analysis
- (d) Finding the reasons of unpopularity or constraints and providing suggestions for further improvements for E-Payment acceptance.

To achieve the above objectives, following hypotheses have been framed:

H1: Perceived Usefulness has a positive effect on consumer acceptance of Electronic Payment

H2: Perceived Ease of Use has a positive effect on consumer acceptance of Electronic Payment

H3: Perceived Risk has a negative effect on consumer adoption of Electronic Payment, higher the risk lower rate of Electronic payment adoption

H4: Perceived credibility has a positive effect on consumer acceptance of Electronic Payment

H5: Customer attitude has a positive effect on consumer acceptance of Electronic Payment

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

The study was based on primary data. The tools constructed for the collection of data were Interview Schedule using structured questionnaires. Data for this study were collected by means of a survey conducted mainly in metro city Kolkata, West Bengal and its surrounding suburb area from August to October 2013. The structured survey questionnaires were in English and those were distributed to randomly select 650 participants. Participants were mainly from Education sector. Others were from Banking, Government services, IT professionals, students, retired persons or even housewives. The respondents were asked beforehand whether they had knowledge about online banking and Electronic Payment services. Only those who answered in affirmative were given the questions to complete in presence of the researcher. The questionnaire consist of two sections. Section A was designed to collect demographic informations like age, gender, occupation, educational qualification and section B was designed to generate information relating to the experience of the customer while using Electronic payment services. 235 responses were received and after checking the validity of the questions 167 respondents were fit for carrying out descriptive analysis. Data thus collected were posted in a master table to facilitate further processing. Statistical analysis of the data were done through SPSS 16 software in computer. In the analysis 5 point Likert scale was used. Scores were allotted for the usage such as totally agree -1, agree-2, neutral-3, disagree-4 and totally disagree-5.

The questions were initially tested with a focus group of 30 respondents mainly professionals from Education sector in West Bengal. The focus group was quite helpful and confirmed that the formulated hypotheses were likely to be highly relevant in explaining perceived adoption of E-payment services in India. On the basis of the pilot study, interview schedule and questions were redesigned with suitable modifications.

Two types of variables available in the research - dependent variables and independent variables. The goal of this research was to understand and describe the dependent variables to know the consumers' intention to use E-payment system. Independent variables significantly influenced the dependent variables in either positive or negative ways. In this study the independent variables were Perceived Usefulness, Perceived Ease of Use and Perceived Risk. These three independent variables would be tested to identify whether or not these variables possess influence on the dependent variable.

## 5. ANALYSIS & FINDINGS

### 5.1 Demographic analysis

The response rate is 36.15 percent (235). Among these, 167 (71.06 percent) of the responses are usable as most items are adequately responded. A total of 70.06% are male respondents. A majority of the respondent (45.78%) is in the range of 26 to 40 years of age. Next falls the age group of 18 to 25 years, they are keen to adopt the latest technology. People with age of above 40 or above 60 years basically prefer conventional method (8.0 percent) i.e. cash and check. Most of them are aware of latest technology but as they are not tech-savy they are afraid of doing so.

In consideration with marital status 48.73 percent respondents are married while 47.46% respondents are single. As both the percentage are all most same, marital status is not a significant factor in Electronic-payment adoption. The survey shows that users of E-payment system are mostly highly educated people- master degree holder (38.32 percent) and next the graduate people (28.143 %). More than three-quarters (66.46%) of the respondents perform online transactions and have previous experience in surfing internet. Only minority 26.34 percent is technophobic and might simply be reluctant to change. During survey most of the participants came from education sector. So majority users 56.88 percent are from this sector, 20.58% respondents are in IT & Telecom, 17.38% in Govt. service, 23.7% people are involved in business and only 14.22% are house-wives. Tremendous responses came from students, almost 80% of them are users of electronic payment system. Majority have a moderate income level, which is below Rs.

50,000 (40.96 %), though while doing this survey 34.93% people had not disclosed about their income.

Survey report shows that E-payment system is accepted only by the urban people (82.03%), while rural and sub-urban people hardly know about it. Majority of them are rare users of ATM card only. From this survey one thing is clear that people still have faith on public bank (74.25%) and State Bank of India lies top of this list. SBI have 35.92% online users, followed by United Bank of India- 10.17 percent online users. All the private bank users are urban people. Majority of them are customers of HDFC bank (9.58 % online users), followed by Axis bank (5.98 % online users), ICICI bank (4.19 % online users) respectively. Those who are users of online all of them primarily perform ATM transaction. Next comes use of Debit card, credit card and rest. According to the survey report VISA has largest customer base than Master. Detailed information is depicted in Table I (given after references)

### 5.2 Measurement Model

#### Reliability Test

A reliability analysis is carried out to check for the underlying dimension of the success factors generated through factor analysis. A rare of thumb suggests that the reliability measures of each of the constructs were found to be above the 0.70 cut off (Cronbach, 1970). Table II depicts a summary of the Alpha scores of all the response ranking of the factors that affect the adoption of E-payment system. All factors exhibit a Cronbach's alpha co-efficient of at least 0.72, indicating that the questionnaire (n=167) has attained rather high level of reliability. Hence, all variables are retained. Among the factors, Perceived Risk (PR) has the highest ranking of Cronbach alpha of 0.78, followed by customers attitude (CUAT) 0.77. Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU) has the lowest ranking with 0.72. Table II (given after references)

Next step was to ensure construct confirmatory validity. Confirmatory construct validity was evaluated using factor analysis to detect high loadings on the hypothesized factors

and low cross-loadings. All eigen values associated with hypothesized factors were set to greater than unity. Principal component analysis was used for extraction method for factor analysis with Varimax rotation. In summary, model and hypotheses tests were conducted with five independent variables – Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU), Perceived Usefulness(PU), Perceived Credibility (PC), Perceived Risk (PR) and Customer Attitude (CUAT) and one dependent variable – use intentions (USE). The Descriptive statistics of these variables are presented in Table III (given after references)

**MODEL TESTING**

To test the model and the hypotheses, Multiple regression analysis was used. It is constructive statistical technique that can be used to analyse the associations between a set of independent variables and using a single dependent variables.

Method : Stepwise analysis(criterion: Probability of F to enter <=0.05). Table IV (given after references)

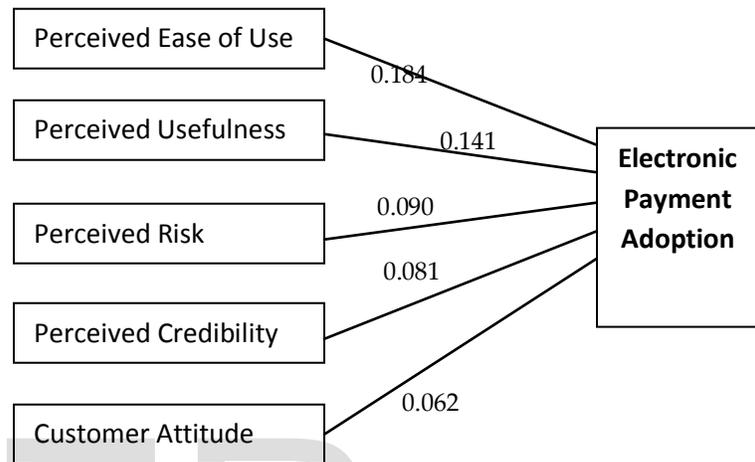
- a. Predictors: (Constant), PEOU
- b. Predictors: (Constant), PEOU, PU
- c. Predictors: (Constant), PEOU, PU, PC
- d. Predictors: (Constant), PEOU, PU, PC, PR
- e. Predictors: (Constant), PEOU, PU, PC, PR, CUAT
- f. Dependent Variable: USE

Key elements of analysis: Five models were tested and fifth model indicates it has five predictors besides constant to determine the dependent variable that met entry requirement in the final equation (PEOU, PU, PC, PR, CUAT). The multiple R ( R = 0.831) shows a substantial correlation between five predictor variables and the dependent variable. Table V (given after references)

**RESULTS**

The model explains 69.0% of the variance in intention to use e-payment. Because the overall model is significant (F =

119.312, P = 0.000), we tested the significance of each variable. Perceived ease of use, Perceived Credibility, perceived Risk, Customer attitude significant. Table VI (given after references) illustrates which hypotheses are supported.



**6. CONCLUSION & IMPLICATION**

This paper presented an empirical review of Electronic payment acceptance in Kolkata. The model formulated evaluated Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU), Perceived Usefulness(PU), Perceived Credibility (PC), Perceived Risk (PR) and Customer Attitude (CUAT) to continue using E-payment acceptance. Among the factors Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU) is found to be the most significant predictor. Conversely, customer attitude was found to have least significant affect on adoption of E-payment. From the finding it is clear that customer have to use more and more this online payment system. More we use the new technology more it will be friendlier with us.

E-payment system in India, has shown tremendous growth, but still there has lot to be done to increase its usage. Still 90% of the transactions are cash based. So, there is a need to widen the scope of electronic payment. Innovation, incentive, customer convenience and legal framework are the four factors which contribute to strengthen the E-payment system.

## 7. LIMITATION & SUGGESTIONS

This study was conducted in Kolkata and its surroundings. Study from other part of the country may reveal a different result due to demographic and economic differences. Also the sample was restricted basically to city where level of literacy is relatively higher. Another limitation is majority of the respondents are from education sector and also sample size is relatively small. Moreover, the study excludes the voice of non-users. Banks may adopt following strategies in order to make E-payment popular.

- Banks should ensure that online transaction is safe and secure like traditional transaction
- Banks should organize free seminars and conferences specially in rural areas to educate less qualified people regarding uses of ATM, Debit card, Credit card etc. and also explain them about security and privacy of their account.
- Some customers mainly older people are hindered by lack of computer knowledge. They need to be educated on basic skills required to conduct online transaction.
- Banks must emphasize the convenience that electronic payment can provide many benefits to people, such as avoiding long queue, in order to motivate them to use it.

Future research in examining level of acceptance of electronic payment should overcome these limitations and should include views of non-users, marketing strategy, promotional and communication issues to acquire new users and effectively maintain the existing customers.

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**TABLE I – Demographic information**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	117	70.05988024

Female	50	29.94011976
<b>Age</b>		
>=18 & <=25	58	34.93975904
>=26 & <=40	76	45.78313253
>=41 & <=60	26	15.6626506
>60	6	3.614457831
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	75	47.46835443
Married	77	48.73417722
Divorced	3	1.898734177
widowed	3	1.898734177
<b>Habitat</b>		
city	137	82.03592814
suburb	10	5.9880239
village	20	11.9760479
<b>Income Level</b>		
<50,000	68	40.9638554
50,000-1,00,000	21	12.6506024
1,00,000-1,50,000	10	6.02409638
> 1,50,000	9	5.42168674
NO Response	58	34.9397590
<b>Occupation</b>		
IT & Telecom	13	20.54
Education	36	56.88
Govt. Service	11	17.38
Business	15	23.7
Others	14	22.12
Insurance	2	3.16
self Employed	2	3.16
student	51	80.58
house wife	9	14.22
retired person	1	1.58
<b>Education</b>		
class 10	4	2.39520958
class 12	25	14.9700598
graduate	47	28.1437125
masters	64	38.3233532

Ph.D	16	9.58083832
Diploma	7	4.19161676
others	4	2.39520958
<b>User of online transaction</b>		
Regular user	111	66.4670658
Not user	44	26.3473053
<b>Prefer Conventional Method</b>		
Prefer Conventional Method	8	4.79041916
Not aware	4	2.39520958
<b>Card Provider</b>		
VISA	84	56.75675676
Master	64	43.24324324

**Table II: CONSTRUCTS AND THEIR RELIABILITIES**

Construct	No. Of Items	Alpha
Perceived Usefulness	5	0.76
Perceived Ease of Use	4	0.72
Perceived Risk	3	0.78
Credibility	4	0.75
Customer Attitude	3	0.77

**Table III: Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
USE	4.4155	1.14391	167
PEOU	4.8543	1.05860	167
PU	4.9187	.98717	167
PC	4.1842	1.01282	167

PR	4.8841	.96034	167
CUAT	5.0063	.93914	167

**Table IV: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Std. Error of Estimate	Change Statistics		
				Multiple R Change	R Square Change	Sig. F Change
1	.768 <sup>a</sup>	.589	.79509	.768	.589	.000
2	.806 <sup>b</sup>	.649	.74983	.038	.060	.000
3	.821 <sup>c</sup>	.674	.73268	.015	.025	.000
4	.827 <sup>d</sup>	.683	.72883	.006	.009	.020
5	.831 <sup>e</sup>	.690	.72502	.004	.007	.021

**Table V: Coefficients**

Model 5	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Beta	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	-.577	.262		-3.458	.024		
PEU	.681	.049	.557	12.848	.000	.721	1.386
PUSF	.306	.049	.191	5.104	.000	.716	1.396
CRED	.189	.041	.156	4.370	.000	.758	1.335
PRSK	.109	.046	.090	2.560	.016	.647	1.528
CUAT	-.085	.037	-.075	2.493	.018	.823	1.099

**Table VI**

	VARIABLE	Coefficient	t-Value	Significance	Support
H1	Perceived Ease of use	0.184	4.370	.000	YES
H2	Perceived Usefulness	0.141	5.204	.000	YES
H3	Perceived Credibility	0.081	-2.323	.019	YES
H4	Perceived Risk	0.090	2.350	.023	YES
H5	Customer attitude	0.062	-1.726	.03	YES

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