



An Empirical Study on Students’ Satisfaction from Mawlana Bhashani Science & Technology University, Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

The main motive of this study is to explore university canteen foodservice attributes (food quality, food variety, price fairness, ambience, staff, and student satisfaction) in Mawlana Bhashani Science & Technology. Data are accumulated through a simple random sampling technique. A total of 355 numbers of valid questionnaires is used for statistic exploration. For measuring the performance of all factors for student satisfaction, 7 points Likert Scale is used. Qualitative & quantitative systems are used in the paper. Microsoft Excel version 10.0, Smart PLS software version 3.0, SPSS software version 20.0, is performed to analyze and test the theoretical model. Following the literature, data are analyzed using Crosstab Analysis, Pearson Correlation Coefficients, Structural Equation Modeling; Confirmatory Factor Analysis, and Path Analysis. The findings show that food quality, food variety, ambience & staff have a significant positive influence on student satisfaction, and the price has a negative impact on student satisfaction.

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1. Introduction

Thinking about food reminds people of two things. One is 'taste', and the other is 'need'. Firstly, the food satisfaction of people from different countries varies in their taste. They maintain their nutrition according to their food taste. In a few countries, like India, China, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Korea, Jamaica, Mexico, Laos, Indonesia prefers to have spicy food (Kiprop, 2018). And, few countries like to have non-spicy food, such as Pakistan and several Arabian countries. Most of the people are meat-lover, and few are vegetarian. So, the food satisfaction of the people across the world mostly depends on their

taste. But it is not limited in just taste. When people think about any individual country which is mostly underdeveloped or developing countries, it needs to talk about the need. In a few countries, like Somalia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Mali, Bangladesh, many people of these countries can hardly have three times meal. Their satisfaction depends on their regular meal which they can hardly achieve. They cannot think about even their health. Food is an integral part of life. Food satisfaction cannot be described with one definition. In simple words, food satisfaction in the form of pleasure which comes not only taste but also needs. It varies across the world, among the individuals of the country. Satisfaction with food-related life is defined as a person’s overall assessment regarding his or her food and eating habits (Schnettler et al., 2017). Food satisfaction enriches life in every way. A proverb goes on ‘Health is wealth’. It does not only refreshes the mind of a person but also helps him/her to concentrate on education, family life & job fields as well.

Sulek and Hensley (2004) find the significance of food quality, physical settings & service in a full-service restaurant and reports that food quality appears to be the most important indicator of customer satisfaction although food quality describes only 17% of repeat-patronage intention (Namkung & Jang, 2007). In one study which is conducted in Amritsar and Jalandhar of India, it is found that 15.3% people have their meal from branded restaurants, 23.3% people take food from fast food outlets and the rest 61.4% people use other shops or like to have food from their own home (Kumar & Bhatnagar, 2017). Though the statistical studies of satisfaction related to the food of different countries, people are hardly found, a standard measure can be emphasized of satisfaction. Through figure 1, it can be said that after satisfying the hunger, completing the nutrition, a person will think to fulfil their satisfaction.



Concept adapted from Learning/Teaching Handout Series CD on Eating Disorders. Sondra Kronberg, MS, RD, CEDRD. Wellness Publishing. 2001.

Figure 1: Hunger & Satisfaction Guide

So say that the quality of food & satisfaction varies among the world countries. Developed countries’ food pattern shows in fulfilling students’ expectations compelling variables are food &

beverage quality, price & value fairness, food taste, nutrition, comfort, assortment, convenience & operating hours.

In the university area, students mostly gather in the campus canteen to have their meals. Serving healthy and nutritious food at a reasonable price in the campus canteen is essential. For the time being, the number of students registered in universities is increasing continuously, causing increase demand and constant rivalry between food service providers inside & outside of the university (Garg, 2014; Patwary, Omar, & Tahir, 2020). Consequently, the evaluation of university food services becomes essential (Knutson, 2000; Andaleeb & Caskey, 2007). Eunkyung et al. (2013) and Dimitrios and Katerina (2014) underline that students' satisfaction in the university cafeteria highly depends on food quality, staff, and ambience. Presently, Mawlana Bhashani Science & Technology has various challenges that need to be addressed, especially in terms of its canteen service quality provided to students'. For instance, a lot of students complain about the quality of food, variety of food display, physical environment & service quality in the canteen. Hence, evaluating the students' food satisfaction at MBSTU, where the findings would serve as a feedback mechanism for providing pleasant & satisfying canteen services. This study aims to investigate the total dining experience measuring behavioural characteristics of university students', and perceptions of different food service attributes and evaluate the most significant factors which have an impact on student satisfaction on food and beverage attributes on-campus canteen. The study also attempts to find out the combination of price fairness, quality of food, food variety, ambience, and staff for student satisfaction.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Students' Satisfaction Drivers' in University Foodservice Canteen

Greater satisfaction with food-related life positively associated with higher levels of life satisfaction & happiness (Schnettler et al., 2015; Sadekin, Ali, & Islam, 2018a; Sadekin, Aktar, & Pulok, 2014; Sadekin, Ali, & Islam, 2018b). The customer experience of food, service, price, and healthfulness significantly affected customer satisfaction levels and behaviour (Nasir & Morgan, 2017). There is a positive consequence of satisfaction on loyalty, behavioural intentions, and switching costs (Prayag, Hassibi, & Nunkoo, 2019). Quality of food & beverages, services, value, price, hygiene and cleanliness, location, and food variety influence students' satisfaction (Ng, 2005; Patwary & Rashid, 2016; Alom, Patwary, & Khan, 2019). Food and beverage quality features, for example, cleanliness, quality & menu variety price and value fairness are viewed as vital by university students and staffs eating at the cafeteria (Herrmann, Xia, Monroe, & Huber, 2007; Martin-Consuegra, Molina, & Esteban, 2007; Oliver & Swan, 1989; Patwary, Roy, Hoque, & Khandakar, 2019; Patwary, Mohammed, Hazbar, & Kamal, 2018). Five factors will be investigated concerning their impact on student satisfaction for the motive of the current study: price fairness, food, and beverage quality, food variety, ambience, and staff.

3. Theoretical Underpinning

Jerry (1972) develops the Cue Utilization Theory. This theory mainly focused on intrinsic and extrinsic cues to help the customers to evaluate the quality of any products. As a consequence, customer satisfaction is determined based on the quality assessment. In this study, food quality, food variety, ambience & staff are reflected as intrinsic cues & price fairness is indicated as an extrinsic cue for determining student satisfaction.

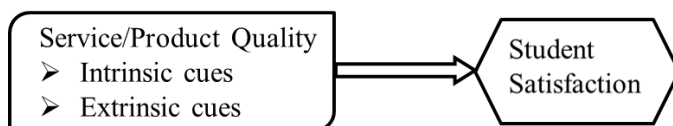


Figure 2: The cue utilization theory of student satisfaction Source: Jerry, (1972)

4. Hypothesis Development

4.1 Price Fairness

Mui et al. (2014) show that improving the food quality and price for long term sustainability the university cafeteria should take serious measurements. Klassen, Trybus, and Kumar (2005) and Nadzirah, Ab-Karim, Ghazali, and Othman (2013) find that as students buy food on limited funds, so the price is the first student concern in university foodservice. They were receiving the right value for the money paid to encourage customers to revisit a food service establishment (Azim, Tarannum, & Patwary, 2017; Li, 2008; Yuksel & Yuksel, 2002). Xi and Shuai (2009) show that student satisfaction with the cafeteria foodservice establish when price occurs somewhat. Thus, H1 is formulated as:

H1: There is a significant positive relationship between price fairness and students' overall satisfaction.

4.2 Food Quality

According to Peri, "Food quality is a necessary condition to satisfy the needs and expectations of customers." Food and beverage quality such as taste, smell, appearance, size, shape, colour, gloss, consistency, and texture are the acceptable quality property for customers (Imram, 1999; McWilliams, 2000; Patwary & Omar, 2016). Oh (2000) finds a relationship between consumer satisfaction with food and beverage quality and his/her intention to return to a specific restaurant. (Namkung & Jang, 2007) reveals customer satisfaction and behavioural intentions significantly affected by the overall food quality. (Nor et al., 2016) find the relationship between food quality attributes and customer satisfaction is statistically significant. Ng (2005) explains that price, value, convenience, and cleanliness are less important attributes than food quality attributes (taste, freshness, and appearance). Thus, H2 is formulated as:

H2: There is a significant and positive relationship between food and beverage quality and students' overall satisfaction.

4.3 Food variety

Xi and Shuai (2009) find that student satisfaction significantly influenced by food variety. (Ryu et al., 2008; Islam & Patwary, 2013) postulate that food variety is the predictor of customer satisfaction. Ahmed et al. (2017) state menu variety is the predictor of customer satisfaction. Thus, H3 is formulated as:

H3: There is a significant positive relationship between food variety and overall student satisfaction.

4.4 Ambience

Troye et al. (1995) define ambience as a structural element. (Baker et al., 1994; Rys et al., 1987) say ambience is one of the fundamental indications to customers judging restaurant quality. Atmosphere and cleanliness are significant variables that have an impact on student satisfaction (Andaleeb & Caskey, 2007; Patwary, 2017). Physical setting influences customers' perceptions of service quality (Norhati and Hafisah, 2013). Thus, H4 is formulated as:

H4: There is a significant positive relationship between ambience and student satisfaction.

4.5 Staffs

Barlett and Han (2007) show that the interaction between the canteen staff and the student is

important as it influences student satisfaction. The staff performance is significant at each food outlet as it is increasing the degree of customer satisfaction (Mui et al., 2014). Thus, H5 is formulated as:

H5: There is a significant positive relationship between staff and student satisfaction.

5. Research Design

Research design presents the research design, sampling technique, research model research instrumentation measurement, data collection procedure & statistical analysis.

5.1 Research Design, Sampling Technique

A self-report experience through a survey questionnaire is developed to obtain the required data. A simple random sampling technique is used for the data collection. Using the following formula by Krejcie & Morgan (1970), the sample size is determined.

$$n = \frac{\chi^2 N P (1 - P)}{e^2 (N - 1) + \chi^2 P (1 - P)}$$

Here,

Population size, N = 5671

At 95% Confidence Level Chi-square value with degrees of freedom, one is, $\chi^2 = 3.841$

Population proportion, P = 0.5

Margin of error at 95% Confidence Level, e = 0.05

At the given conditions the sample size is approximately 359.79 or 360

5.2 Research Proposed Model

Based on the literature review, the research proposed model of the study is illustrated in the figure below:

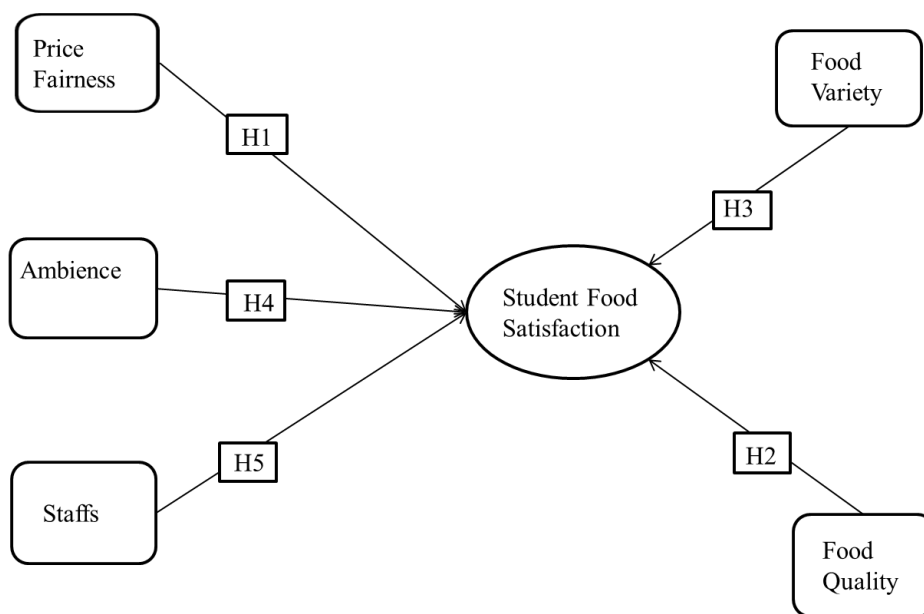


Figure 3: Research Proposed Model

Figure 3 shows the proposed model which conceptualizes the relationship among the factors of

student satisfaction, price fairness, food quality, food variety, ambience & staff. Here, in this proposed model, student satisfaction is a dependent variable, whereas price fairness, food quality, food variety, ambience, and staff are the independent variables.

5.3 Research Instrumentation, Measurement & Data Collection Procedure

The 7 points Likert Scale (Strongly disagree to strongly agree) is used to measure the constructs. A total of 360 structured questionnaires are distributed, out of which 355 are received from the respondents.

5.4 Statistical Analysis

For this study, hypotheses are tested with SEM using PLS. Bootstrapping is applied to determine the significance level of the loadings, weights, and path coefficients.

6. Result Analysis & Discussion

In this study, Descriptive Statistics such as Frequency Distribution & Crosstabs Analysis have been applied to show Demographic Profile & to investigate the difference of students' satisfaction according to their gender & foodservice attributes of the students where several graphical presentations are used. After using Smart PLS 3.0; SEM Estimations are completed for testing the hypotheses.

Table1: Percentage Distribution of Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	203	57.2
Female	152	42.8
Total	355	100.0

Data source: Author

Table 1 shows the male respondents are 57.2 % and female respondents.

Table2: Percentage Distribution of Current Residence of the Respondents

Current Residence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Hall	230	64.8
Mess	93	26.2
At Home	32	9.0
Total	355	100.0

Data source: Author

Table 2 shows 42.8% among male and female 64.8% live in the hall, 26.2% live in a mess, and 9% live at home.

6.1 Descriptive Statistics

For the fulfilment of objective 01 following frequencies, percentage & mean analyses are given below within table & figure.

Table3: Behavioral characteristics of the respondents on taking food items

Cafeteria Visiting time		Everyday	Two or three times a week	Once a week	Occasionally	Doesn't consume	Total
Breakfast	Percentage	42.2	27.0	18.4	12.4	0.0	100
Lunch		50.2	24.4	13.5	8.3	3.6	100
Dinner		26.9	31.3	12.5	7.4	21.9	100

Data source: Author

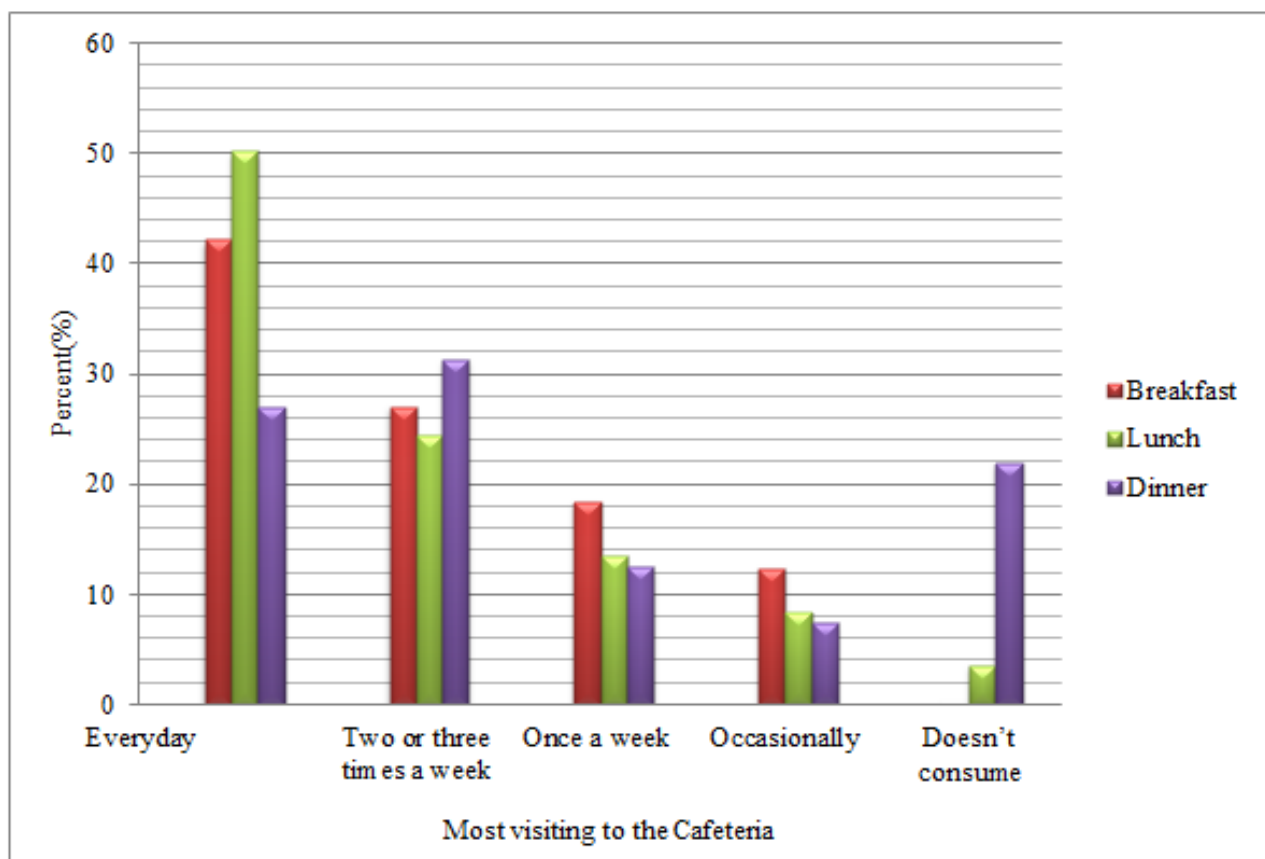


Figure 4: Behavioral Characteristics of the respondents on taking food items

In terms of behavioural meal consumption Table 3 and Figure 4 can be seen the highest proportion (42.20%) of the students have daily breakfast & lunch daily (50.40%) and (31.30%) have dinner two or three times per week in the canteen. The highest proportion did not have dinner (21.90%) whereas 26.90% have dinner daily in the canteen.

Most Visiting time to the cafeteria	Fast Food	Soft Drink	Fish & Vegetables	Meat	Total
Everyday	28.1	16.0	24.6	31.3	100
Two to three times a week	28.2	22.1	19.4	30.3	100
Once a week	33.3	26.7	3.3	36.7	100
Occasionally	30.9	12.0	16.4	40.7	100
Doesn't consume	0.0	41.7	0.0	58.3	100

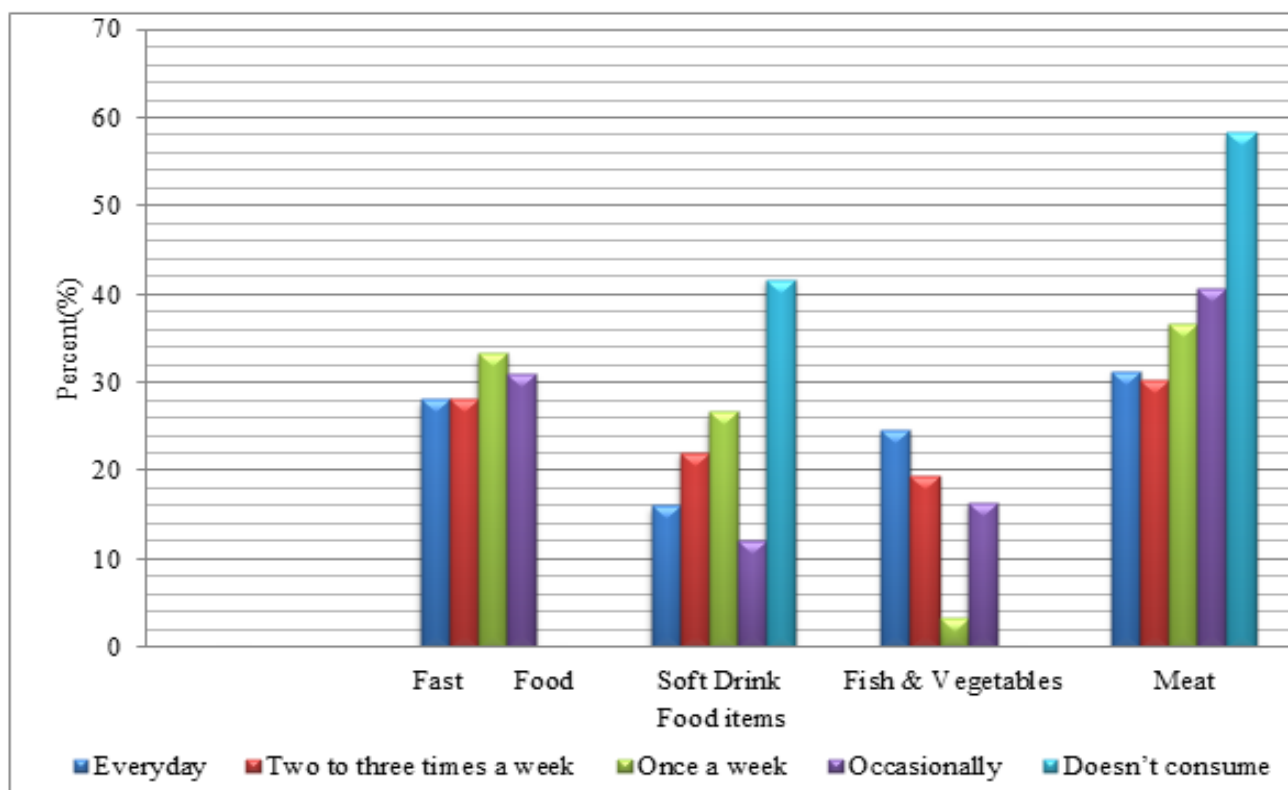


Figure 5: Behavioral characteristics of the respondents with food stuff & Soft drink

In terms of Behavioral consumption of food stuffs and soft drink Table, four and Figure 5 shows most of the students consume meat occasionally (40.70%), once a week (37.70%), 2 or 3 times a week (33.30%), fish&vegetables everyday (24.60%), fast food daily (26.10%), occasionally (30.90%) or 2 or 3 times per week, soft drink daily 16.00%, 2 or 3 times a week 22.10%.

Table 5: Percentage (%) & means of the students 'overall satisfaction level								
Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Whatever price	9.3	12.1	11.3	18.9	22.3	18.6	7.6	4.19
Acceptable price	15.5	16.9	10.4	12.1	20.0	20.5	4.5	3.84
Changeable price	13.0	17.7	9.6	18.9	20.8	14.9	5.1	3.82
Overall mean for price fairness								3.95
Food freshness	5.4	10.7	11.3	18.5	19.7	25.6	8.7	4.48
Hot food	7.0	7.0	5.1	7.9	23.1	38.6	11.3	4.94
<u>Flavour</u> of food	7.0	7.0	11.0	10.7	28.2	29.0		4.58
Delicious food	15.6	16.9	11.3	1.5	19.4	20.6		3.83
Overall mean for food quality								4.46
Available food choices	13.5	17.2	10.4	19.2	20.6	14.6	4.5	3.78
Special meals & promotions	9.3	12.1	11.8	18.3	22.3	19.2	7.0	4.18
Dietary food	14.9	16.1	11.0	13.2	19.2	20.8	4.8	3.87
Overall mean for food variety								3.94
Hand wash facilities	13.0	17.7	10.4	19.2	19.7	14.6	5.4	3.80
Comfortable seat	9.3	12.1	10.7	17.2	23.4	20.3	7.0	4.22
Cleanliness	2.5	5.9	4.5	15.5	38.3	27.3	5.9	4.87
Opening hours	4.5	4.8	6.8	20.3	37.5	22.5	3.7	4.64
Noise	6.5	6.8	13.5	23.1	20.6	23.7	5.9	4.39
Overall mean for ambience								4.38
Staffs hygiene	4.8	6.8	6.5	23.7	20.3	30.4	7.6	1.66
Easy to talk	13.5	16.6	10.4	19.7	19.2	14.6	5.9	2.43
Smiling & greetings	9.3	12.1	11.8	18.3	22.3	18.3	7.9	4.70
Efficiency of employees	6.5	6.8	13.0	22.5	21.1	23.4	6.8	3.84
Overall mean for staffs								4.19

Data Source: Author

Table 5 shows students' overall perceptions which are expressed with mean value at descending order. The overall mean rating scale is overall mean for the food, and beverage quality is (M= 4.46)>, Overall satisfaction for the ambience (M=4.38)>, overall mean for the student satisfaction is (M=4.19)>, price fairness (M= 3.95)> and Overall mean for the food variety is(M= 3.94)>, and this overall result is measured using the research variables satisfaction level.

6.2 Correlation Analysis

For the fulfilment objective, the following correlation analyses are given below within a table.

Variables	AMB	FQ	FV	PF	STA	SS
AMB	1.000					
FQ	0.187*	1.000				
FV	0.328*	0.249*	1.000			
PF	0.247*	0.420*	0.288*	1.000		
STA	0.252*	0.416*	0.278*	0.607*	1.000	
SS	0.256*	0.417*	0.276*	0.609*	0.608*	1.000

Note: *Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Table 6 shows the results of correlation coefficients matrix correlation are significant at the 0.01 level & no correlation coefficient is equal to 0.90 or above. This testing provides support for the discriminant validity, i.e. all the constructs are distinct (Amick & Walbery, 1975). This correlation also indicates a strong positive relationship between the research variables.

6.3 Regression Analysis

For the fulfilment of objective 03 following model measurement results is given below:

6.4 Measurement model

Figure 6 demonstrates results' using PLS Algorithm technique for the hypothesized model is shown given below:

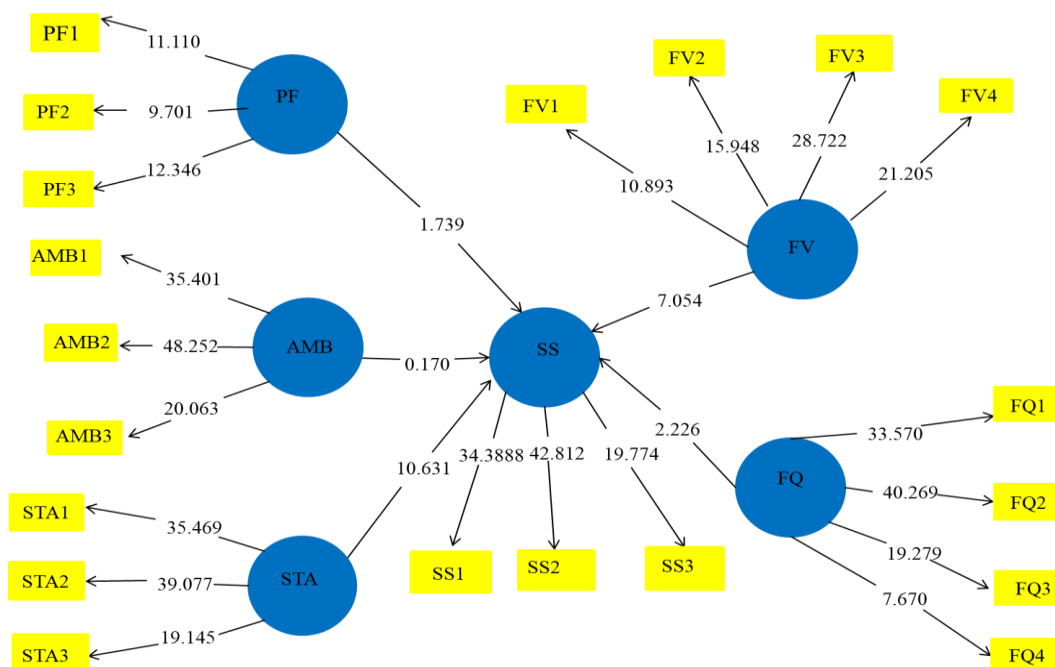


Figure 6: Hypothesized Model Structure & Results

Figure 7 demonstrates results using PLS Algorithm technique for the hypothesized model shown given below:

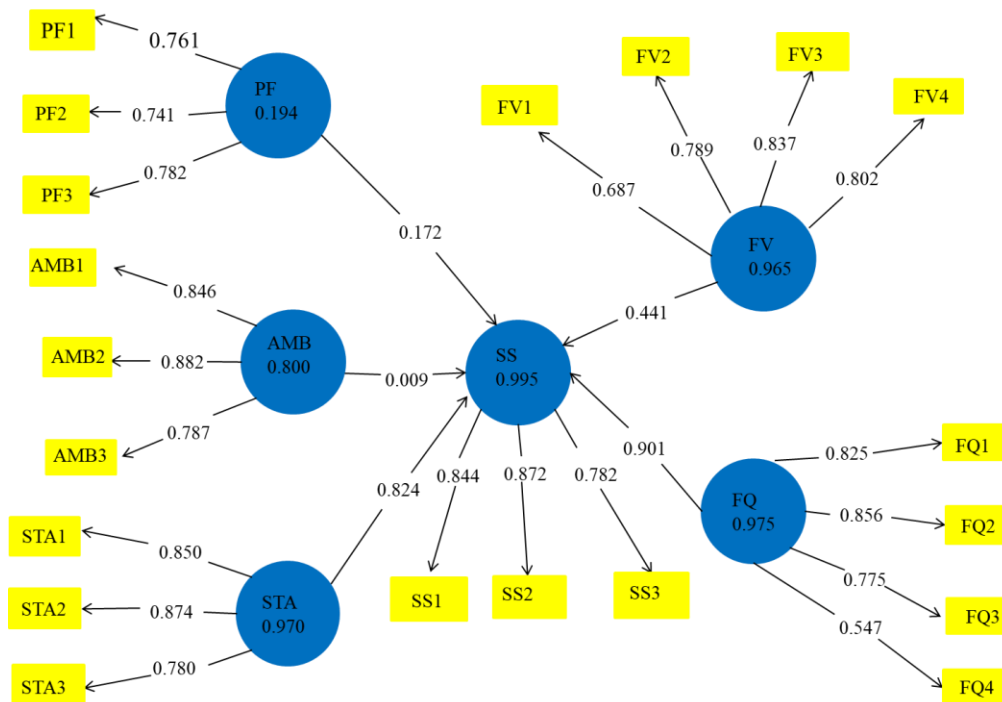


Figure 7: Hypothesized Model Structure & Results

Hair et al. (2010) explain the lower limit value of Cronbach’s alpha is 0.60. Composite reliabilities of constructs exceed the cutoff value of .70; which ensures adequate internal consistency (Hair, Anderson, Tatham, & Black, 1998). Fornell and Larcker (1981) recommend that AVE explain variance, which has less than 50 per cent. Here in our analysis achieve these requirements see within Table7.

Table 7: Coefficient & Composite Reliability & Validity Assessment			
Factors	Cronbach's alpha	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted(AVE)
AMB	0.651	0.805	0.580
FQ	0.750	0.842	0.578
FV	0.787	0.861	0.610
PF	0.788	0.877	0.704
STA	0.783	0.874	0.698
SS	0.779	0.872	0.695

Data Source: Author

Discriminant validity implies how well an individual item factor connects to its hypothesized construct in comparison to others (Osman, Sentosa et al. .2013). Table 8 demonstrates discriminant validity is measured via cross-loadings & the square roots of AVE, which satisfies the above-mentioned criteria & we termed discriminate validity as significant (Fornell & Bookstein 1982).

Table 8: Discriminant Validity Fornell-Larcker Criterion

Factors	AMB	FQ	FV	PF	STA	SS
AMB	0.762					
FQ	0.437	0.761				
FV	0.522	0.567	0.781			
PF	0.402	0.977	0.456	0.839		
STA	0.413	0.976	0.443	0.989	0.836	
SS	0.418	0.976	0.441	0.990	0.997	0.833

Convergent validity is a scale's capability to come or load together as a single construct, and each loading is measured for another block of indicators (Osman, Sentosa, et al. 2013). The values of outer loadings should be greater than 0.7, revealing that the indicators share more variance (LV) than with error variance. A lower limit of .50 may be acceptable (Chin, 1998). The value of convergent validity using the cross-loading matrix is given in Table 9, which fulfil the above-mentioned criteria

Table 9: Outer Lodgings-Cross Loading Matrix

Factor s	AMB	FQ	FV	PF	STA	SS
AMB1	0.846					
AMB2	0.882					
AMB3	0.787					
FQ1		0.825				
FQ2		0.856				
FQ3		0.775				
FQ4		0.547				
FV1			0.687			
FV2			0.789			
FV3			0.837			
FV4			0.802			
PF1				0.761		
PF2				0.741		
PF3				0.782		
STA1					0.850	
STA2					0.874	
STA3					0.780	
SS1						0.844
SS2						0.872
SS3						0.782

Data Source: Author

The predictability & strength of a model is reflected by the R² values, which are another vital determinant of the model (Chin1998). On the other hand, Adjusted R² attempts to correct R² to Adjusted R². Chin et al. (2008) classify R² values. Where R² latent variables substantial (R² = 0.67), moderate (R² = 0.33), or weak (R² = 0.19). Table 10 represents this analysis which depicts the model as fitted & satisfactory.

Table 10: R² & Adjusted R²

Factors	R ²	AdjustedR ²
AMB	0.800	0.795
FQ	0.975	0.975
FV	0.965	0.965
PF	0.194	0.190
STA	0.970	0.970
SS	0.995	0.995

For testing research hypotheses, the bootstrapping technique of PLS-SEM is applied to generate the value of T-statistics, P-value to see whether these value support hypothesis or not. The level of confidence for the testing hypothesis is chosen to be 0.95; all hypotheses for which the significance number is outside the range -1.96 to 1.96 are supported. From Table 11, it appears that hypotheses are supported at a 5% significance level & Path coefficient with T-statistics which is larger than 1.96 where, H2, H3, H4 & H5 are supported, and H1 is not supported. Value of T statistics of H1 is 1.739, which is lower than the acceptance criteria 1.96 & P-value is higher than 0.05. That’s why this hypothesis is not supported.

Table 11: Path Coefficients-Mean, STDEV, T-Values, P-Values

Factors	Original Sample	Sample Mean(M)	Standard Deviation(SD)	T*	P**
AMB->SS	0.170	0.167	0.023	7.389	0.000**
FQ->SS	0.172	0.176	0.077	2.226	0.026**
FV->SS	0.441	0.044	0.062	7.054	0.000**
PF->SS	0.009	0.009	0.005	1.739	0.083 ^{ns}
STA->SS	0.824	0.819	0.077	10.631	0.000**

Note:*the tabulated value of t = 1.96, **significant = p < 0.05, ***= not significant

Table 12 shows a summary of hypothesis testing.

Table12: Hypothesis Testing Summary

Hypothesis No.	Declaration
H1	Not Accepted
H2	Accepted
H3	Accepted
H4	Accepted
H5	Accepted

7. Discussion

Following Table 11 and Table 12, hypothesis testing is interpreted. The hypothesis H1 is not accepted as the beta coefficient value is 0.009 & insignificant at p < 0.05level. This implies that students are not concern or probably they have satisfactory perceptions about food price. Several scholars (Nadzirah et al., 2013; Mui et al., 2014) also support this result. Hypothesis H2 is accepted since the beta coefficient

value is 0.176, and the value is less than 0.05. The result is compatible with some former researchers (Ng, 2008; Andaleeb and Caskey, 2007). Hypothesis H₃ is accepted where the coefficient value is 0.004, and the p-value is, $p < 0.05$. This result is consistent with several researchers (Garg & Kumar, 2017; McCall and Lynn, 2008). Hypothesis H₄ is accepted by the analysis as the outcome beta coefficients 0.313, and the p-value is significant at $p < 0.05$. This outcome is consistent with other researchers (Imran, 2018; Kumar & Bhatnagar, 2017). The hypothesis H₅ is accepted by the result of the beta coefficient value of 0.819 P significant value level is $p < 0.05$ (Barlett & Han 2007; Mui et al. 2014). Finally, these supportive results are fruitful for the students' food satisfaction to make a final canteen background.

8. Conclusion

This part displays a brief and extensive decision of the study result. Assessing different perceptions of food attributes the study reveals that among five dimensions of canteen food services four dimensions such as food quality, food variety, ambience, and staff have a significant positive impact on student food satisfaction. This result contributes to improving food and beverage outlets which are useful for student satisfaction.

At what time university neglect to take an interest in their general services faithfully, whereas frustrated students' might perceive the total product offered as below their expectations as food and beverage outlets can have a distinct impression. To retain students' retention university secretary can promote the manufacturing delivery and check students' food requirements.

Besides, confirming continual progress could be benefitted towards systematic arrangements for students' satisfaction. Providing cycle menu planning and fresh foods in the menu choices for a particular time, the university canteen administrators must take necessary steps. Attractive and pleasant ambience, staff training and development should be ensured. This study has significant classifications for university cafeterias, to take various enhancing directions and procedures.

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