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Impact of Brand Image, Brand Trust and Brand Loyalty on Brand Advocacy —An Empirical Study in Context to In-Store Brands

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Article Information	Abstract
Article history:	Supermarkets are becoming more common in big cities and,
Submitted: 25/12/2022	increasingly, in small towns across Pakistan. And they offer a variety
Accepted: 31/12/2022	of brands, including their private brands, such as apparel and groceries.
Published: 31/12/2022	This paper aims to work on a new and potentially profitable research
Volume No. 2	topic. And, after reviewing the literature, We discovered that brand advocacy is a relatively new topic in Pakistan, with little work being
Issue No. 2	done on it. I was curious whether private brands are necessary for
ISSN: 2790-7899	developing brand image, trust, and loyalty, which will result in brand
Keywords:	advocates. For my study, I distributed a closed-ended questionnaire to
Brand Image; Brand	300 Faisalabad residents. Our primary goal is to collect data from
Trust; Brand Loyalty;	respondents who are affiliated with a store and shop there, following
Brand Advocacy	the collection of data via questionnaires. We wanted to put the
	hypothesis to the test after evaluating the research framework we acquired from another similar research. We wanted to investigate the effects of brand image, trust, and loyalty on brand advocacy. After careful data analysis on SPSS, we discovered that brand image, trust
	careful data analysis on SPSS, we discovered that brand image, trust, and loyalty all impactimpact brand advocacy, and all of these factors enhance brand advocacy. Brand advocacy is a strong seller-buyer
	relationship in which the buyer becomes a brand advocate.

Introduction

Today, brands play an important role in developing strong, great, and long-term relationships. Branding is crucial in meeting and dealing with organizational goals and objectives. Customers prefer brands that are a good fit for their personalities and priorities (Febriyantoro, 2020). Today, brands are focusing on developing a solid business-to-consumer (B2C) relationship by gaining their trust and creating a positive brand image by learning about their customers and providing them with the item they desire. This allows the sellers and producers to form a strong bond by strengthening and deepening their relationship and building a loyal and faithful customer base (Ekeke & Justina, 2021). organizations must create a positive image and loyal customers to transform them into brand advocates further. When a customer highly values a product in terms of value for money, quality, and dependability, he or she will recommend it to others, which is known as brand support (Ledikwe, 2020).

In this study, I looked at the effects of brand image, trust, and loyalty on in-store brand advocacy. I conducted surveys to collect data, then used statistical tools to analyses the JMAS, Vol. 2, Issue. 2, Year 2022

data and derive meaningful conclusions. I divided my survey questionnaire into two product categories, the first being apparel and the second being groceries. I surveyed the university campus and at various supermarkets that sell their own private brands. Respondents were instructed to answer the questions based on one of the product categories. The data was then analyzed using SPSS, and the findings and results of this research study were drawn using various tools. Even though brand advocacy is a new dimension of marketing research, we decided to broaden the scope after consulting with our advisor. The study's broad scope will assist us in developing an overall picture of the scenario under consideration. And will allow for various future implementations and research suggestions. And provide various dimensions to work on within this specific research topic. We attempted to investigate the relationship between independent variables. The research aims to discover the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The findings will apply to every supermarket in the city. Analysis of the two most dominant private product categories will aid in establishing the relationship between results and gaps to be filled with the assistance of those results.

According to the literature, brand image, trust, and loyalty all impact brand advocacy. So, this research study aims to explain that relationship and calculate its magnitude. I was able to draw meaningful conclusions after careful data analysis. Based on these findings, various marketing and promotional tools and techniques can create a positive brand image, build trust and loyalty, and ultimately create brand advocates.

Literature Review

Brand Image

A brand image created in customers' minds through brand association (Kervyn et al., 2022). Consumers think and feel about a brand in unique ways; this is known as brand image in the minds of consumers (Ghosh & Bhattacharya, 2022). Superior brand messages can be developed based on a strong brand image to compete with the competition (Santos et al., 2021). Brand image is associated with product classification based on uniqueness and differentiation from other brands (Kuusela, 2021). Brand image is a key driver of brand value because it refers to a customer's general recognition, trust, and feeling about a brand and impacts the customer's actions (Oppong, 2020). The entire purpose of massive advertising and promotional campaigns these days is to create an image and perception in people's minds. Advertisers portray a brand as reliable and cost-effective (Manzoor, Baig, Hashim, et al., 2021). The development and support of the brand image is critical to brand management. Brand image is the understanding buyers gain from a collection of brand-related activities such as promotions, advertising, discounts, and various campaigns (Mahmood et al., 2021). Brand image is important in creating and communicating brand messages; when people buy and trust grows, so does the brand image in the eyes of the customers (Onuoha, 2020). As a result, customer behavior toward a brand or a specific product is heavily influenced by the image of that brand or product (Hwang et al., 2021; Manzoor, Baig, Hashim, et al., 2020). A positive brand image is formed when a client perceives the brand as a trustworthy partner and can associate himself/herself with a specific brand through a unique affiliation, and that individual may recommend that brand to someone else and think highly of the brand (Mim et al., 2022). Brand image is the sum of a customer's relationships, including value for money, trust, and reliability. This drives him to brand recognition and brand affiliation, including brand properties, brand benefits, and brincluding brand attributes, benefits, and behavior (Nandya & Permana, 2021).

Brand Trust

According to researchers, brand trust acts as a middleman, reminding customers of their previous purchases and assisting them in making new purchases (X.-X. Wang & He, 2022). Brand trust is essential for the relationship and strengthens it (Alagarsamy et al., 2021). Brand trust can be defined as a normal purchaser's willingness to rely on a brand's willingness to provide the best quality and price. Brand trust is a well-thought-out, planned, and deliberate process (Machi et al., 2022). Consumers were only faithful to transactions in the past when trading consumer-based products (Fatoki & Fatoki, 2021). In the past, this was the most serious problem. Brands struggled to build trust and customer relationships because they were only interested in the transaction (Nandy & Sondhi, 2022). Trust is defined as the willingness to rely on a business partner in whom one has certainty and trust that the seller will provide the best available option (Ghanimeh, 2020). Brand trust can be defined as an intellectual component that can elicit an eager reaction, specifically brand influence (Sharma, 2020). Brand trust offers specific promoting advantages, for example, lower advertising costs, more new purchasers, extraordinary exchange use, ideal verbal exchange, and competing among contenders promoting activities (Saraiva, 2021). Trust is extremely important in the business world. Rather than relying on mechanical support, brands use new techniques to promote themselves, such as building customer relationships and trust (Syah & Olivia, 2022). Another simple and less expensive strategy is to maintain strong relationships with buyers. Trust is important in brand recognition and enticing customers to return for more purchases (Li et al., 2022).

Brand Loyalty

Customer loyalty can be used to determine the quality of the relationship between buyer and seller (Nightingale, 2020). The level of customer devotion to the brandthe perception that has formed in the customers' mind and the perception that has formed in the customers' minds can be used to assess the nature and quality of the relationship (Liu et al., 2021). Loyalty is a customer's behavior; a faithful and loyal customer purchases the same product regularly (HAILU, 2021). Recent decades have introduced new dimensions and perspectives on the business environment, relationships, and, in particular, the buyer-seller relationship (Bahadur et al., 2020). Researchers place a high value on brand devotion and loyalty, viewing it as a point of convergence of brand value. It is regarded as an important character to assemble and maintain (Suchit, 2020).

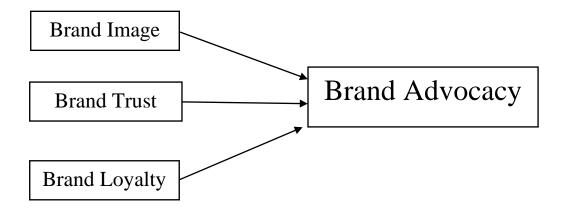
Brands and organizations with many brand followers are more successful and profitable (Khanh et al., 2021). Many analysts agree that brand followers contribute positively to the brand and its value (F. Wang, 2022). Brand loyalty is a shopper's preference to purchase a single brand name in a product category; it results from the brand's obvious quality, image, and trust (Tuyapala & Nuangjamnong, 2022). Brand loyalty is the most commonly defined term in the marketing dictionary (KR & Venkatesan, 2020). Nosi defined loyalty as "a biased behavioural response expressed over time by a decision-making unit concerning one or more alternative brands out of a set of brands and being a function of psychological processes" (Nosi et al., 2021).

Brand Advocacy

Customers who prefer one provider over others in the market are known as brand advocates (Manzoor et al., 2022b). Giving that provider priority when purchasing products and services from that provider regularly (Makhubela, 2020). The level of trust and dependability in that particular provider causes their customers to speak for them (Manzoor, Baig, Sami, et al., 2021). And informing others about how beneficial the relationship is and how much benefit they derive from it (Richards-Carpenter & Grantz, 2021).

These customers are genuinely invested in the brand and have a sense of ownership over it. Brand supporters are loyal to the brand and would suggest and effectively promote it through various channels (Kumar & Kaushik, 2020). Brand advocacy is an exceptional form of dependability. According to one definition, a brand advocate is "someone who actively recommends you to others and does your marketing for you" (Shah et al., 2020). The concept of support includes a solid brand-based passionate connection between the brand and its customer and the possibility of having a selective buying relationship (Zafran, 2022). Customer communicates about the brand in a dynamic, positive, and intentional manner in order to spread its message to others (De Canio et al., 2020). Commitment is a two-way street; you provide your customers with the products and services they desire. Making and improving the organization by working sincerely, honestly, and in every way possible to serve the customers (Haider, 2020). On the other hand, clients become brand supporters and advocates due to the organization's efforts (Manzoor, Irfan, et al., 2021). A client who becomes an active supporter of your organization is a true blessing (Ahmed, 2021; Manzoor et al., 2022a). This individual can discuss your image, engage others in conversation about it, and influence more people to purchase your items and administrations by utilizing social conditions like Facebook as his or her stage (Manzoor, Baig, Malik, et al., 2020).

Conceptual Framework



Hypothesis

H1: There is a positive relationship between brand image and brand advocacy.

H2: There is a positive relationship between brand trust and brand advocacy.

H3: There is a positive relationship between brand loyalty and brand advocacy.

Data Collection and Methodology

This research section will concentrate on the methods and techniques used to complete this study. Primary research was conducted using secondary literature data, and data collected via a survey questionnaire was analyzed. Quantitative data is gathered to continue the research study. Primary data can be obtained from a variety of sources. I chose the survey questionnaire method to obtain more structures and easily usable data. 300 survey questionnaires were completed in two categories: apparel and groceries. The questionnaire was the same for both categories, but the analysis was done separately. I used variables from previously researched literatures for this particular I study. As a result, the question of the authenticity of the questions does not arise.

Furthermore, a reliability test is run on SPSS to ensure that the questions are reliable. A five-point Likert scale is used to respond to the questionnaire's questions. A Likert scale provides more data exposure than a closed-ended question. We can categories responses using a Likert scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Our goal was to determine the effect of independent variables on the dependent variable. As a result, we divided the questionnaire into product categories. I chose non-probability sampling because there were no age or demographic restrictions in the questionnaire. Because of time and workforce constraints, convenient sampling is used in non-probability sampling. I had the surveys filled out by anyone available. Respondents came from university campuses and various supper establishments. I first run the regression through SPSS on all 300 samples as a group, then separate the analysis by category.

Questionnaire Items

Table 1. Item Description

Variables	Source	No. of items
Brand Image	Aqeel Tahir (Aqeel 2016)	5
Brand Loyalty	Zohaib Ahmed, Muhammad Rizwan (Zohaib Ahmed 2014)	6
Brand Trust	Zohaib Ahmed, Muhammad Rizwan (Zohaib Ahmed 2014)	5
Brand Advocacy	Ricardo Machado, Michael C. Cant, Helen	6
	Seaborne (Ricardo Machado 2014)	

Results and Analysis

Correlation reveals the nature of the relationship and its significance. The independent and dependent variables have a positive relationship. If the independent variable is influenced, the dependent variable will be influenced in the same direction, which is positive in this case.

Table 2. Correlation Matrix

	Brand Image	Brand Loyalty	Brand Trust	Brand Advocacy
Brand Image	1			
Brand Loyalty	.707**	1		
Brand Trust	.607**	.700**	1	
Brand Advocacy	.743**	.742**	.838**	1

^{**.} Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Multiple Regression

Table 3 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	djusted R Square	. Error of the Estimate
1	.892ª	.796	.793	.43501

a. Predictors: (Constant), Brand Image, Brand Loyalty, Brand Trust

R square tells us how much independent variables explain dependent variable. Figure .79 points out that the dependent variable is 59%, explained by the independent variables, and there will be 79% variation in the dependent variable due to independent variables.

Table 4. ANOVA Matrix

Model		Sum of		Mean SquareF		Sig.	
		Squares					
1	Regression	130.149	3	43.383	229.259	$.000^{b}$	
	Residual	33.305	176	.189			
	Total	163.454	179				

a. Dependent Variable: Brand Advocacy

b. Predictors: (Constant), Brand Image, Brand Loyalty, Brand Trust

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standard	lized t	Sig.
			Coefficients		
	В	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	.083	.150		.558	.577
Brand Image	.301	.047	.312	6.332	.000
Brand Loyalty	.124	.052	.132	2.398	.018
Brand Trust	.574	.050	.557	11.389	.000

The beta value describes how much change will occur in the dependent variable due to a change in the independent variable. The beta of brand image is. Three hundred twelve states that there will be. If the brand image changes by one unit, the dependent variable changes by 312 units. The beta of brand loyalty is. According to 132, there will be. If brand loyalty changes by one unit, the dependent variable changes by 132 units. The beta of brand trust is. If brand trust changes by one unit, the dependent variable will change by .557 units.

Brand Image

Table 6. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	djusted R Square	. Error of the Estimate
1	.743 ^a	.552	.549	.64140
a. Predictors: ((Constant), Bran	d Image		

R square tells us how much dependent variable is explained by independent variables. Figure .55 points out that the dependent variable is 55%, explained by the independent variables, and there will be a 55% variation in the dependent variable due to independent variables.

Table 7. ANOVA Table

Model		Sum of	df	Mean SquareF		Sig.
		Squares				
1	Regression	90.226	1	90.226	219321	.000 ^b
	Residual	73.227	178	.411		
	Total	163.454	179			

a. Dependent Variable: Brand Advocacy

F value tells us that the model is fit to study. And p value which is P<.05 tells that this study's results are significant.

Table 8. Coefficients Significance

Model					
	nstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	В	Std.	Beta	-	
		Error			
(Constant)	1.179	.190		6.196	.000
Brand Image	.715	.048	.743	14.809	.000
a. Dependent Varia	ble: Bran	d Advoca	cy		

b. Predictors: (Constant), Brand Image

The beta value describes how much change will occur in the dependent variable as a result of a change in the independent variable. The beta of brand image is. If the brand image changes by one unit, the dependent variable will change by 743 units

Brand Loyalty

Table 9. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	djusted R Square	. Error of the Estimate
1 a. Predictors: (.724 ^a Constant), Bran	.551 d Loyalty	.548	.64244

R square tells us how much dependent variable is explained by independent variables. Figure .55 points out that the dependent variable is 55% explained by the independent variables, and there will be 55% variation in the dependent variable due to independent variables.

Table 10. ANOVA

Model		Sum of	df	Mean Squ	ıareF	Sig.
		Squares				
1	Regression	89.989	1	89.989	218.036	$.000^{b}$
	Residual	73.465	178	.413		
	Total	163.454	179			

a. Dependent Variable: Brand Advocacy

Table 11. Significance of Coefficients

Model					
	nstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	В	Std.	Beta		
		Error			
(Constant)	1.207	.189		6.387	.000
Brand Loyalty	.700	.047	.742	14.766	.000
a. Dependent Variable	e: Brand A	dvocacy			

b. Predictors: (Constant), Brand Loyalty

F value tells us that the model is fit to study. And p value which is P<.05 tells that the results of this study are significance.

The beta value describes how much change will occur in the dependent variable due to a change in the independent variable. The beta of brand loyalty is.742, which means that if brand loyalty changes by one unit, the dependent variable will change by.742 units.

Brand Trust

Table 12. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	djusted R Square	The error of the Estimate
1	.838ª	.703	.701	.52254
a. Predictors	s: (Constant), l	Brand Trust		

R square tells us how much dependent variable is explained by independent variables. Figure .70 points out that the dependent variable is 70% explained by the independent variables, and there will be 70% variation in the dependent variable due to independent variables.

Table 13. ANOVA

Model		Sum of	df	Mean Square F		Sig.	
		Squares					
1	Regression	114.850	1	114.850	420.616	.000 ^b	
	Residual	48.603	178	.273			
	Total	163.454	179				
a.	Dependent Vari	able: Brand Ad	vocacy				
b.	Predictors: (Cor	nstant), Brand T	rust				

F value tells us that the model is fit to study. And p value P<.05 tells that this study's results are significant.

Table 14. Significance of Coefficients

Model					
	nstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	В	Std.	Beta	_	
1		Error			
(Constant)	.597	.166		3.595	.000
Brand Trust	.864	.042	.838	20.509	.000
a. Dependent Variabl	le: Brand Ac	lvocacy			

The beta value describes how much change will occur in the dependent variable as a result of a change in the independent variable. The beta of brand trust is 838, which means that if brand trust changes by one unit, the dependent variable will change by 838 units.

When we compare our results, we see that our hypothesis is accepted by every method we used to analyze the data. The results of the combine regression with a sample size of 300 are highly significant in both multiple and single regression. The results of the category-wise approach are significant in both categories, in both multiple and simple regression. In simple regression, the results are significant when no other independent variable is present. The overall model is well-fitting, and the results are significant.

Conclusion

The primary goal of the study was to establish a link between the independent variables (Brand Image, Brand Trust, and Brand Loyalty) and the dependent variable (Brand Advocacy). After careful data analysis and multiple perspectives, I concluded that Brand Image, Brand Trust, and Brand Loyalty all have an impact on Brand Advocacy. SPSS is the statistical software that was used to obtain the results in this study. Further data was analyzed using correlation and, in particular, the regression tool. Increase Brand Image, Brand Trust, and Brand Loyalty to achieve and improve Brand Advocacy. By examining each independent variable, we can conclude that brand advocacy can be achieved and enhanced by improving various aspects of the service. Providing a positive shopping experience contributes to the development of a positive brand image, which aids in the attraction and retention of customers. Delivering the promised quality and products contributes to the development of trust and reliability. Offering products and services that are unique and different in various ways can help the brand become dependable, which helps retain customers. If a store is the first choice of customers, it means that they value the brand and have faith in it, and the brand provides them with the best products and services, which creates a positive brand image in the eyes of the customers. Reliability is an essential component of any brand; if the brand is not reliable, it is impossible to build brand trust and a positive brand image. Advocacy cannot be achieved unless an image and trust are established. Brand trust and loyalty also contribute to commitment because customers feel associated with and committed to the brand when it meets their expectations.

As a result, we conclude that all of the listed factors are significant and necessary. To get to the point where customers become Brand Advocates for the brand and products. And all of this can be accomplished by becoming the preferred product or service provider among all others. And developing and establishing a strong brand name. Brand trust and a positive brand image contribute to brand loyalty, and loyal customers become brand advocates. If a brand provides the best experience, the best price, the best security, and becomes the first choice of customers due to its dependability and reliability, it will build a strong customer base. Strong customers are critical to achieving brand advocacy. Brand advocates can be created by improving the effecting elements, such as image, trust, and loyalty, which will help attract new customers and promote the brand across various channels and platforms.

Recommendations

According to the findings and conclusions, Brand Image, Brand Trust, and Brand Loyalty all have a positive impact on Brand Advocacy. Stores can also boost Brand Advocacy by emphasizing Brand Image, Brand Trust, and Brand Loyalty. Based on the findings, stores are advised to concentrate on various aspects of service. Giving customers the best shopping experience possible will ultimately improve the store's image. Stores promise high quality and competitive prices, and by delivering on their promises, they can gain the trust of their customers. Making the brand an essential part of the customers' lives and

making them reliant on the product will aid in the development of a strong customer base. Brands should strive to be the first in the minds of their customers by providing high-quality products at competitive prices. Providing dependable and trustworthy products will assist brands in gaining customer trust. Create a loyal and committed customer base by instilling trust in your products and your commitment. Stores should provide appropriate and relaxing functionality to make shopping more convenient and desirable. Also, provide safekeeping for the customers' belongings, which will give them a sense of security and trust. Meet customer expectations and always go the extra mile for customers to exceed their expectations.

All of this is possible with careful consumer research. Consumer surveys can help a store learn about its customers' needs and desires, as well as what their customers think about the brand. A store should be aware of its customers' needs and desires. Their expectations should be clear and known to the stores so that they can work toward meeting the customers' expectations. Nowadays, it is critical for every store brand to be aware of customer demands and the store's ability to meet those demands and expectations. Customer research is a critical and integral part of offering products. Because customer research will clarify the needs and expectations of consumer. To attract customers, various marketing campaigns and promotions can be launched. Promotions and campaigns will also give the impression that the brand is well aware of its customers' needs and is serving them in every way possible. Discounts, free samples, value cards, and various event-based sales and discount deals can all be part of these campaigns. Then, by providing high quality and functionality, you can keep them and turn them into advocates by establishing a long-term reliable and trustworthy relationship.

Limitations

The research had some limitations as well. However, they have no effect on the study in such a way that it is no longer usable. The study's findings are trustworthy and completely applicable. Time constraints: because it was a 3 credit hour course, there wasn't a lot of time to devote to this study. More time could be used to produce more sophisticated and in-depth results. Sample constraint: the sample was very broad, but it can be narrowed down and categorized further. However, because it is a new topic, a larger sample would provide more insights into the topic and cover different aspects. Manpower constraints: because I was the sole researcher, more contributors could make this research more detailed and in-depth.

Future Directions

The primary goal of my research was to determine the relationship between the independent variables (Brand Image, Brand Trust, and Brand Loyalty) and the dependent variable (Brand Advocacy). And quantify the magnitude of the relationship. However, in the future, different time spans and classes may be introduced based on: A longer time frame can be used to conduct more detailed and specific research. Demographics can be added, which means that more classes based on gender, income, and age can be introduced. Geographically, research can be expanded to different cities to gain insight into the behavior and responses of people in different cities to similar questions.

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