



# International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

*(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)*



Impact Factor: 8.206

Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2025



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

# Consumer Preferences and Market Dynamics in the Indian Flavored Coffee Segment: A Comprehensive Analysis

P. Rakshith\*, Indu K, \* Mohan Gowda, \* Khushi Verma, \* Hitesh Varma, \* Girish Muthu V\*

Students, Department of MBA, Faculty of Management Studies, CMS Business School, JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University), Bangalore, India\*

**ABSTRACT:** This research examines consumer preferences and purchasing behavior in the Indian flavored coffee market using primary survey data and supporting secondary research. Key findings reveal distinct patterns across demographic segments, with chocolate and nut-based flavors dominating preferences across age groups. Younger consumers (18-34) demonstrate higher receptivity to experimental flavors and social media marketing, while older demographics prefer traditional flavors and conventional purchasing channels. Taste consistently ranks as the most important purchase factor, with ethical sourcing showing surprisingly high importance among younger consumers. These insights can guide targeted product development, marketing strategies, and distribution approaches to effectively penetrate India's evolving coffee market.

**KEYWORDS:** JEL Classification: M31 – Marketing L66 - Food - Beverages - Cosmetics – Tobacco, D12 - Consumer Economics: Empirical Analysis

## I. INTRODUCTION

### Market Context and Evolution

Coffee culture in India has undergone remarkable transformation over the past decade, evolving from a traditionally tea-dominated market to an increasingly sophisticated coffee landscape. With rising urbanization, growing disposable incomes, and greater exposure to global trends, the Indian coffee market has experienced significant growth, particularly in the specialty and flavored segments.

The Indian coffee market was valued at approximately ₹8,000 crores in 2021 and is projected to reach ₹14,000 crores by 2025, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 8.3%. This growth trajectory significantly outpaces the global average, highlighting India's emerging status as a key growth market for coffee products and experiences.

### Research Objectives

This study addresses the research question: "What are the key factors influencing flavored coffee preferences and purchasing behavior among different demographic segments in India?"

The primary objectives include:

1. Identifying predominant flavor preferences across demographic segments
2. Analyzing the relative importance of various factors in purchase decisions
3. Examining effective marketing channels and purchase motivations
4. Understanding consumption patterns and preferred purchase locations
5. Developing segment-specific recommendations for market participants

### Significance of the Study

Despite the rapid growth of flavored coffee consumption in India, comprehensive research specific to this segment remains limited. This study aims to bridge this knowledge gap by providing data-driven insights into consumer preferences, purchasing behavior, and marketing responsiveness. The findings will assist manufacturers, retailers, and marketers in developing targeted strategies to capitalize on opportunities in this emerging market segment.





## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Historical Context of Coffee Consumption in India

Coffee cultivation in India traces back to the 16th century when Baba Budan reportedly introduced seven coffee beans from Yemen to Karnataka, establishing the first plantations. Traditionally, South Indian states dominated both production and consumption, with filter coffee ("kaapi") serving as a cultural staple. Meanwhile, instant coffee gained popularity in other regions due to its convenience and accessibility.

#### Evolution of the Indian Coffee Market

Research by market intelligence firms indicates that the Indian coffee industry has experienced consistent growth over the past decade. The entry and expansion of international chains like Starbucks and Costa Coffee, alongside domestic players such as Café Coffee Day, has significantly influenced consumer preferences and consumption patterns, particularly in urban centers.

According to Coffee Board of India data, domestic coffee consumption grew at an annual rate of approximately 5-6% between 2015-2020, with particularly strong performance in the ready-to-drink and specialty segments. This growth has been driven by changing lifestyles, increasing work pressure, and growing café culture among urban youth.

#### Flavored Coffee Market Trends

The flavored coffee segment represents a relatively recent development in the Indian market. Global research indicates that flavor innovation has been a key growth driver in the coffee industry worldwide, with chocolate, vanilla, and nut-based flavors emerging as consistent consumer favourites.

Industry studies suggest that younger Indian consumers (18-35 age group) demonstrate higher receptivity to experimental flavors and international coffee trends compared to older demographics. This aligns with global patterns where younger consumers typically drive innovation in the flavored beverage category.

#### Factors Influencing Coffee Purchase Decisions

Previous research has identified several key factors influencing coffee purchase decisions among Indian consumers, including taste, price, brand reputation, availability, and perceived quality. However, most studies have focused on the broader coffee market rather than specifically examining the flavored coffee segment.

Recent research suggests that ethical considerations, including fair trade certification and sustainable sourcing, are increasingly important to urban Indian consumers, particularly those in higher income brackets. This represents a significant shift from earlier studies that positioned price and taste as the primary decision drivers.

#### Market Segmentation in Coffee Consumption

Research by industry analysts has typically segmented the Indian coffee market into traditional coffee drinkers (primarily South Indian filter coffee consumers), instant coffee consumers (valuing convenience), and specialty coffee enthusiasts (seeking premium experiences and variety). However, this segmentation requires further refinement to account for the growing flavored coffee segment and evolving consumer preferences.

#### Research Gap

While existing literature provides valuable insights into the broader coffee market in India, there remains a significant gap in understanding specific consumer preferences, purchase behavior, and effective marketing strategies for the flavored coffee segment. This study aims to address this gap by providing data-driven insights into consumer preferences across demographic segments, preferred consumption channels, and the relative importance of various factors in purchase decisions.

### III. METHODOLOGY

#### Research Design

This study employed a quantitative research approach using a structured questionnaire to collect primary data on flavored coffee preferences and consumer behavior. The research design was exploratory and descriptive, aiming to identify patterns and relationships between demographic variables and coffee consumption behaviours.



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

### Sampling Method and Participant Profile

The study utilized a non-probability convenience sampling technique to collect responses from coffee consumers across different demographic segments. The final sample consisted of over 450 respondents representing various age groups (18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55+), occupations (students, working professionals, homemakers, business owners, retired individuals), and consumption patterns (from daily to rare consumption).

### Data Collection Instrument

The questionnaire consisted of multiple-choice and rating scale questions organized into six primary sections:

1. Demographic Information (age group, occupation)
2. Coffee Consumption Habits (frequency, locations)
3. Coffee Preferences (type, flavor, sweetener use)
4. Importance Ratings (taste, price, branding, ethical sourcing, availability)
5. Purchase Behavior (purchase location, monthly spending, packaging preference)
6. Marketing Insights (discovery methods, purchase motivations, social media influence)

For importance ratings, a 5-point scale was used, where 1 represented the lowest importance and 5 represented the highest importance.

### Data Analysis Approach

The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistical methods, including frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, and mean ratings. Key variables were examined across demographic segments to identify patterns and relationships. The analysis focused particularly on:

1. Distribution of preferences across demographic segments
2. Correlation between demographic factors and purchasing behavior
3. Relative importance of different factors in purchase decisions
4. Effectiveness of various marketing channels

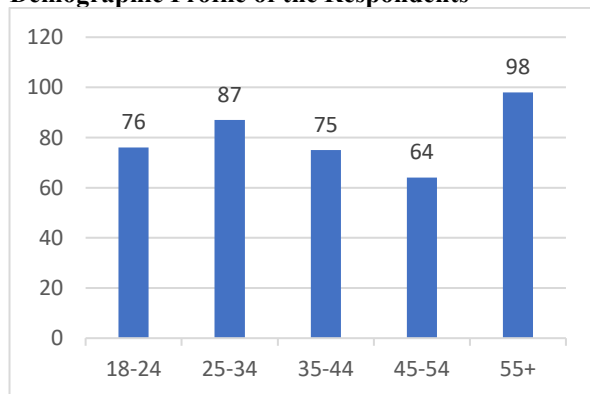
### Limitations

Several limitations should be acknowledged:

1. The sample size, while sufficient for preliminary analysis, may not fully represent the diverse Indian consumer market.
2. The convenience sampling approach limits the generalizability of findings.
3. The study relies on self-reported data, which may be subject to recall and social desirability biases.
4. Regional variations in coffee consumption patterns may not be fully captured in the sample.
5. Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable insights into flavored coffee consumer preferences and behavior in the Indian market.

## IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Demographic Profile of the Respondents



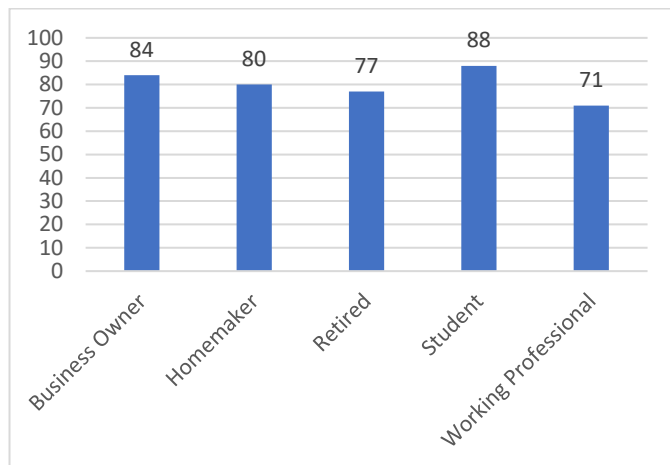
The survey sample included representation across various age groups: approximately 25% in the 18-24 age bracket, 20% in 25-34, 20% in 35-44, 15% in 45-54, and 20% in the 55+ category.

Demographic Profile (Age)



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

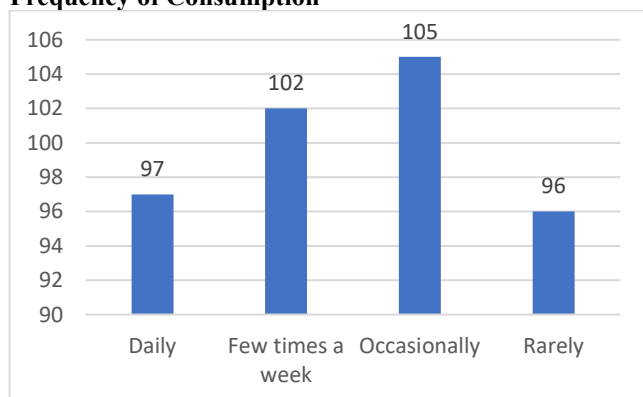
(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Demographic Profile (Occupation)

Occupational distribution included students (25%), working professionals (30%), homemakers (10%), business owners (15%), and retired individuals (20%).

### Coffee Consumption Pattern Frequency of Consumption



Consumption Frequency

Analysis of consumption frequency revealed interesting patterns across demographics:

- Daily consumption was most prevalent among the 25-34 age group (28% of respondents in this segment) and retired individuals (30%).
- The 18-24 age segment showed more varied consumption patterns, with only 15% reporting daily consumption but 40% indicating "few times a week"
- Working professionals demonstrated the highest overall consumption frequency, with 25% reporting daily consumption and 45% consuming coffee "few times a week"
- Homemakers and students showed more occasional consumption patterns

### Consumption Location

The data revealed diverse consumption contexts:

- At-home consumption was prevalent across all demographics (65% of respondents).
- "On-the-go" consumption was highest among the 18-34 age group (55%) and working professionals (60%).
- Café/restaurant consumption was more common among younger demographics (45% of 18-34 age group) and business owners (50%).
- Workplace/study place consumption varied significantly across occupational categories.

These findings suggest opportunities for targeted product positioning based on consumption context and demographic profiles.

### Flavour Preferences Popular Flavour Profiles

The survey revealed distinct preferences for specific flavor profiles:

- Chocolate Cinnamon Coffee and Mocha Nut Coffee emerged as the most popular flavors across all demographics, with 35% and 30% of total preferences respectively.
- French Vanilla Coffee showed stronger preference among older age groups (45+), capturing 25% of preferences in this segment.
- Almond Mocha Coffee was particularly popular among the 25-34 age bracket (30% of preferences in this segment).



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

- Younger consumers (18-34) showed greater overall receptivity to flavored coffee varieties compared to older demographics.

These findings align with global trends where chocolate and nut-based flavors consistently rank among consumer favourites.

### Flavour Preference with Demographics

Cross-tabulation of flavor preferences with demographic variables revealed:

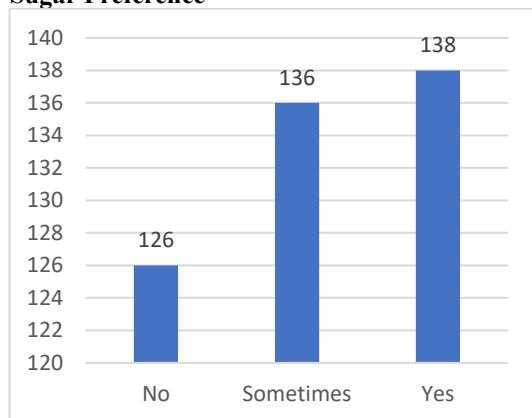
- Students showed stronger preferences for chocolate-based flavors (40% preferring Chocolate Cinnamon).
- Working professionals exhibited more diverse flavor preferences, with more balanced distribution across all four flavor options.
- Retired individuals demonstrated stronger preference for traditional flavors like vanilla (35% preferring French Vanilla).
- Higher-income segments (spending above ₹2,000 monthly) showed greater willingness to experiment with unique flavor combinations.

### Factors Influencing Purchase Decision Importance Rating

Analysis of importance ratings revealed:

- Taste received the highest overall importance rating (mean score: 3.2/5).
- Price importance varied significantly by income level, with highest sensitivity in the "Below ₹500" monthly spending segment (mean score: 3.8/5 for this segment).
- Ethical sourcing showed surprisingly high importance (mean score: 3.1/5), particularly among younger demographics (3.5/5 for 18-24 age group).
- Availability was relatively less important for specialty coffee consumers but critical for daily drinkers.
- Branding showed moderate importance (mean score: 3.0/5), with higher ratings among status-conscious segments.

### Sugar Preference



Sugar Preference among the Respondents

#### Sugar preference analysis revealed:

- Approximately 30% of respondents preferred coffee with sugar
- 40% indicated "sometimes" using sugar
- 30% preferred no sugar
- Younger demographics showed higher sweetener usage compared to older segments (40% of 18-24 age group preferred sugar compared to 20% of 55+ segment)

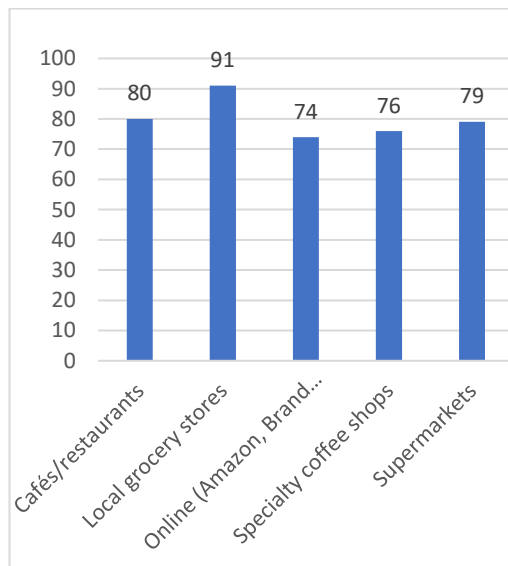
This suggests potential for product development targeting different sweetness profiles across demographic segments.



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

### Purchasing Behaviour Purchase Location

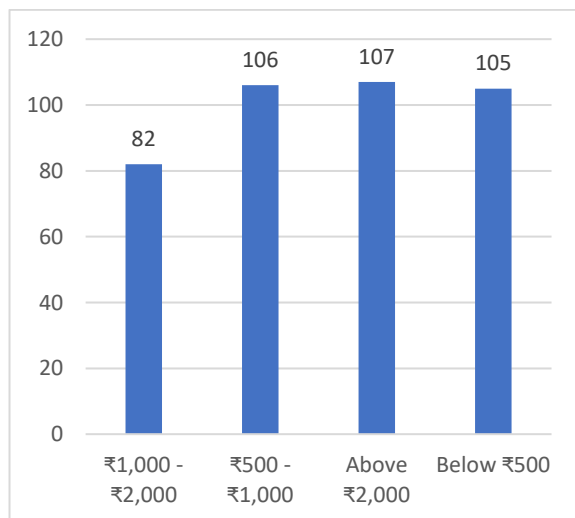


The data revealed diverse purchasing channels:

- Supermarkets emerged as the most common purchase location (35% of respondents).
- Specialty coffee shops were preferred by higher-income segments and coffee enthusiasts (20% overall, but 35% among those spending above ₹2,000 monthly).
- Online purchasing (Amazon, brand websites) showed significant popularity (20%), particularly among younger, tech-savvy consumers (30% of 18-34 age group).
- Local grocery stores were important for older demographics and convenience-focused segments (15% overall, but 25% among 55+ age group).
- Cafés/restaurants accounted for 10% of purchase locations.

Purchase Location of the Respondents

### Monthly Spending



Spending patterns revealed distinct segments:

- Below ₹500: 35% of respondents (primarily older demographics and occasional drinkers).
- ₹500-₹1,000: 25% of respondents (diverse demographic representation).
- ₹1,000-₹2,000: 20% of respondents (primarily working professionals and business owners).
- Above ₹2,000: 20% of respondents (heavy consumers and premium coffee enthusiasts).

This spending distribution suggests opportunities for tiered product offerings catering to different price points.

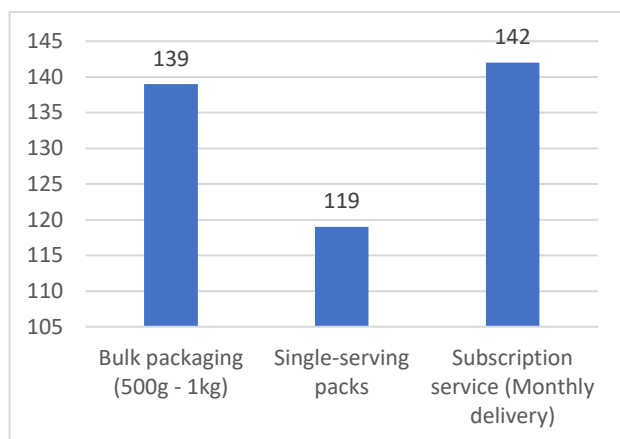
Monthly Spending on purchasing Coffee of the Respondents



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

### Packaging Preferences



Packaging Preferences of the Respondents

Analysis of packaging preferences revealed:

- Single-serving packs were preferred by 40% of respondents, with higher preference among on-the-go consumers.
- Bulk packaging (500g-1kg) was preferred by 30%, particularly among regular at-home consumers.
- Subscription services showed growing popularity (30%), especially among younger, urban demographics (40% of 18-34 age group).

### Marketing Insights

#### Discovery Methods

The survey revealed diverse pathways to product discovery:

- Word of mouth remained powerful, with 30% citing it as a primary discovery method.
- Coffee festivals/events showed strong impact (25%), particularly for introducing new flavors.
- YouTube/food bloggers emerged as influential (20%), especially among younger demographics (30% of 18-34 age group).
- In-store promotions and social media advertising showed moderate effectiveness (15% and 10% respectively).

#### Purchase Motivators

Analysis of purchase motivations revealed:

- Recommendations from friends/family was the strongest motivator (30%).
- Unique flavors drove trial for 25% of respondents.
- Promotional offers (discounts/free samples) motivated 25% of purchases.
- Positive online reviews influenced 20% of purchase decisions.

This suggests multi-faceted marketing approaches leveraging both social influence and product differentiation.

#### Social Media Influence

The data showed platform-specific patterns:

- Facebook and YouTube emerged as the most influential platforms (25% each).
- Instagram showed strong influence among younger demographics (20% overall, 35% among 18-34 age group).
- LinkedIn had unexpected relevance (15%), particularly among professionals.
- X (formerly Twitter) showed moderate influence (15%) across various demographics.

These findings suggest opportunities for targeted social media strategies based on platform-specific user demographics.

## V. CROSS-SEGMENT ANALYSIS

These segment profiles provide valuable frameworks for targeted marketing strategies and product development.

#### Young Urban Professionals (25-34, Working Professionals)

This segment demonstrated:

- Higher than average spending (₹1,000-₹2,000 monthly)
- Strong preference for iced and flavored coffee varieties
- High importance ratings for taste and ethical sourcing
- Strong influence from social media and word-of-mouth





## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

- Preference for convenience (on-the-go consumption, online purchasing)

### Value-Conscious Traditionalists (45+, Retired)

This segment exhibited:

- Lower monthly spending (Below ₹500-₹1,000)
- Preference for classic flavors (French Vanilla, Mocha)
- Higher price sensitivity
- Stronger reliance on in-store promotions and word-of-mouth
- Preference for familiar purchase channels (local stores, supermarkets)

### Experimental Enthusiasts (18-24, Students)

This segment showed:

- Moderate spending patterns
- Highest receptivity to new flavors
- Strong influence from social media and events
- Interest in subscription models
- Diverse consumption contexts

## VI. CONCLUSION

This research provides comprehensive insights into flavored coffee preferences and consumer behavior in the Indian market. The findings reveal significant variations across demographic segments in terms of flavor preferences, purchase motivations, consumption contexts, and marketing responsiveness.

Several key conclusions can be drawn from this research:

1. Flavor preferences show clear demographic patterns, with chocolate and nut-based flavors dominating overall preferences, while specific flavors like French Vanilla appeal more strongly to older demographics.
2. The relative importance of purchase factors varies significantly across segments, with taste consistently ranking highest, while factors like ethical sourcing show surprisingly strong importance among younger consumers.
3. Coffee consumption contexts are diverse, suggesting opportunities for products positioned specifically for at-home, on-the-go, or workplace consumption.
4. Marketing effectiveness varies by channel and demographic, with word-of-mouth maintaining strong influence across segments, while digital channels show particular effectiveness among younger demographics.
5. The market demonstrates clear segmentation opportunities, with distinct consumer profiles emerging based on age, occupation, and spending patterns.

These findings address the research question by identifying key factors influencing flavored coffee preferences and purchasing behavior across demographic segments. The results suggest that a nuanced, segment-specific approach to product development, pricing, and marketing is essential for success in the Indian flavored coffee market.

The findings largely align with previous research on broader coffee consumption trends, while providing new insights specific to the flavored coffee segment in India. The surprising importance of ethical sourcing and the strong influence of events/festivals represent noteworthy departures from earlier studies focusing primarily on price and taste factors.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the research findings, the following recommendations are proposed for manufacturers, marketers, and retailers operating in the Indian flavored coffee market:

### Product Development Strategies

1. **Flavor Portfolio Optimization:** Maintain core offerings of popular flavors (Chocolate Cinnamon, Mocha Nut) while developing segment-specific flavors targeting distinct demographic preferences. For the 45+ segment, focus on classic flavors like French Vanilla, while developing more experimental combinations for younger consumers.



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

2. **Sweetness Profiling:** Develop products with varied sweetness levels to accommodate different sugar preferences across segments. Consider clearly labeled sweetness scales to help consumers identify preferred options.
3. **Consumption-Context Products:** Create product variants specifically formulated for different consumption contexts, such as convenient on-the-go options in single-serve formats, premium at-home experiences in larger packaging, and office-friendly options.
4. **Ethical Product Development:** Emphasize ethical sourcing and sustainability in product development and messaging, particularly for products targeting younger demographics (18-34), who demonstrated significantly higher concern for these factors.

### Pricing and Packaging Strategies

1. **Tiered Pricing Structure:** Implement strategic pricing tiers aligned with identified spending segments, from value-oriented options (Below ₹500) to premium offerings (Above ₹2,000). Ensure different price points offer distinct value propositions.
2. **Packaging Innovation:** Expand packaging options to include convenient single-serve options for on-the-go consumption, bulk packaging for regular home consumers, and subscription models for loyal customers. Consider environmentally friendly packaging to appeal to ethically conscious segments.
3. **Value-Added Bundling:** Create bundled offerings combining popular flavors to encourage trial and increase average purchase value. Design discovery packs specifically tailored to different consumer segments.
4. **Subscription Services:** Develop subscription models targeting younger demographics (18-34), who showed the highest interest in this purchasing model. Offer customization and flexibility to enhance appeal.

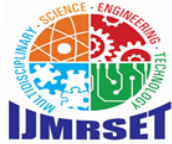
### Distribution and Channel Strategies

1. **Omnichannel Approach:** Ensure strong presence across identified purchase channels (supermarkets, specialty shops, online platforms) while recognizing their different demographic appeals. Develop channel-specific strategies that acknowledge different shopper motivations.
2. **E-commerce Optimization:** Enhance online presence with detailed product information, user reviews, and subscription options to capture growing digital purchasing behavior, particularly among younger consumers and working professionals.
3. **Specialty Retail Partnerships:** Develop strategic partnerships with specialty coffee shops to introduce products to coffee enthusiasts and leverage their expertise and credibility.
4. **Convenience Channel Development:** Increase availability in convenience-focused channels to capture on-the-go consumption opportunities, particularly important for younger demographics and working professionals.

### Marketing and Promotion Strategies

1. **Platform-Specific Social Media Strategy:** Develop targeted content for identified influential platforms aligned with their demographic user bases. Focus on Instagram and YouTube for younger segments, while leveraging Facebook and LinkedIn for older professionals.
2. **Experiential Marketing:** Increase presence at coffee festivals and events, which showed strong influence on product discovery and trial across all demographics.
3. **Influence Marketing:** Leverage YouTube food bloggers and content creators, particularly to reach younger demographics who showed high responsiveness to these channels.
4. **Word-of-Mouth Amplification:** Implement referral programs and social sharing incentives to capitalize on the strong influence of personal recommendations, which emerged as the strongest overall purchase motivator.
5. **Segment-Targeted Messaging:** Develop distinct marketing messages emphasizing different product attributes (ethical sourcing, unique flavors, value) based on segment priorities identified in the importance ratings.

Implementation of these recommendations should be prioritized based on organizational capabilities and strategic objectives, with regular market response assessment to guide ongoing refinement and adaptation.



## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

### REFERENCES

1. Coffee Board of India. (2022). Annual coffee production and consumption report, 2021-2022.
2. Euromonitor International. (2023). Coffee in India: Market analysis and consumer trends. Market Research Report.
3. Kumar, S., Patel, A., & Sharma, R. (2020). Ethical consumption patterns in Indian beverage market: A study of urban consumers. *Journal of Consumer Behaviour in Emerging Markets*, 15(2), 78-96.
4. Mintel Group. (2022). Global food and drink trends 2022-2023: Focus on beverage innovations. Market Intelligence Report.
5. Raghavan, V., & Mahmood, K. (2018). Factors influencing coffee purchase decisions among Indian consumers. *International Journal of Retail Management*, 42(3), 215-233.
6. Singh, P., & Patel, R. (2022). Market segmentation in Indian coffee consumer landscape. *Journal of Food Products Marketing*, 28(4), 322-341.
7. Technopak. (2019). India food services report 2019: Focus on café and coffee shop segment. Industry Analysis.
8. United States Department of Agriculture. (2022). Coffee market report: India. Foreign Agricultural Service.





INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
SERIAL  
NUMBER  
INDIA



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

| Mobile No: +91-6381907438 | Whatsapp: +91-6381907438 | [ijmrset@gmail.com](mailto:ijmrset@gmail.com) |

[www.ijmrset.com](http://www.ijmrset.com)