# INSIGHT JOURNAL Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Johor International, Refereed, Open Access, Online Journal

## Special Issue Volume 6 2020

Selected papers from the 6th IABC 2019

eISSN: 2600-8564 Indexed in MyJurnal MCC Abstracted in Asian Digital Library (ADL)



INSIGHT JOURNAL (IJ) UiTM Cawangan Johor Online Journal Vol. 6: 2020 Special Issue Selected Papers form IABC2019 eISSN :2600-8564 Published by UiTM Cawangan Johor insightjournal.my

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INSIGHT Journal is an online, open access, international refereed research journal established by Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Johor, Malaysia. It is indexed in MyJurnal MCC. Furthermore, it is abstracted in Asian Digital Library (ADL).

INSIGHT Journal focuses on social science and humanities research. The main aim of INSIGHT Journal is to provide an intellectual forum for the publication and dissemination of original work that contributes to the understanding of the main and related disciplines of the following areas: Accounting, Business Management, Law, Information Management, Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Language Studies, Islamic Studies and Education.

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Selected papers from the 6<sup>th</sup> IABC 2019



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### FOREWORD BY DEPUTY RECTOR OF RESEARCH, INDUSTRIAL LINKAGES & ALUMNI



Since 2018, the INSIGHT JOURNAL (IJ) from Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Johor has come up with several biennial publications. Volume 1 and 2 debuted in 2018, followed by Volume 3 this year as well as Volume 4 with 19 published papers due to the great response from authors

both in and out of UiTM. Through Insight Journal, lecturers have the ability to publish their research articles and opportunity to share their academic findings. Insight Journal is indexed in MyJurnal MCC and abstracted in Asian Digital Library (ADL). Moreover, is is also an international refereed journal with many international reviewers from prestigious universities appointed as

its editorial review board members.

This Volume 6 is the second special issue for the 6<sup>th</sup> International Accounting and Business Conference (IABC) 2019 held at Indonesia Banking School, Jakarta. The conference was jointly organized by the Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Johor and the Indonesia Banking School Jakarta. Hence, this volume focuses mainly on the accounting and business research papers compiled from this conference, which was considered a huge success as over 66 full papers were presented.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Rector of UiTM Johor, Associate Professor Dr. Ahmad Naqiyuddin Bakar for his distinctive support, IJ Managing Editor for this issue Dr. Noriah Ismail, IJ Assistant Managing Editor, Fazdillah Md Kassim well as all the reviewers and editors who have contributed in the publication of this special issue.

Thank you.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. SAUNAH ZAINON Deputy Rector of Research, Industrial Linkages & Alumni *Editor-in-Chief for INSIGHT Journal* Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Johor



#### Customer Loyalty on Sharia Banking: The Effect of Brand Image and Customer Value

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#### Abstract

This study aims to determine the effect of brand image on customer loyalty both directly and through customer value on sharia banking operated in the city of Pekanbaru. Data collection was done by using a questionnaire distributed to sharia bank customers in Pekanbaru, Indonesia. The data that have been collected were tested for validity and reliability, and then to find out the relationship between the variables the data were processed using structural equation modeling. The results found that brand image and customer value have a positive and significant effect on customer loyalty. In addition, the brand image also has a positive and significant effect on customer value. The direct effect of brand image on customer loyalty is smaller than the indirect effect of brand image on customer loyalty through customer value. Based on the calculations, it is evident that customer value is a partial mediation for the influence of brand image on customer loyalty. The results of this study state that in order to maintain customer loyalty, sharia banking must continue to strengthen the brand image and customer value that have become their hallmark and mainstay to win the competition.

Keywords: Brand Image, Customer Loyalty, Customer Value, Sharia Banking

#### 1. Introduction

Customer loyalty is an important factor that determines the company's sustainability. Loyal customers will not only become regular customers but will also be a free promotional tool for companies when consumers recommend companies to other consumers. Consumer loyalty is influenced by various factors. This study aims to find out two factors based on previous research that affect customer loyalty, namely brand image and customer value. This study also wants to test whether customer value is a variable that mediates between brand image and customer loyalty.



#### 2. Literature Review

Overall, this paper starts with discussions on the dependent variable first, customer loyalty. Subsequently, the two independent variables are discussed to show their influence on customer loyalty based on previous research.

#### 2.1 Customer Loyalty

The basic concept of marketing states that to increase customer retention, companies must identify customer needs and satisfaction (Day, 1994). However, a more desirable measure of true loyalty is that customers voluntarily recommend a brand or store to others and are committed to products or services throughout time (Bloemer & De Ruyter, 1998). Creating a loval customer, in the era of competitive market, is the main goal of all companies. According to Boora and Singh (2011), creating loyal customers includes finding and maintaining them. The benefit of loyal customer consists of lower price sensitivity, lower cost of new customer acquisition, and higher profitability. Lovalty can be measured in three ways. First, customer loyalty is measured by stochastic approach. It is absolutely behavioural. The second measurement uses deterministic approach that believes loyalty is an attitude. The last measurement is composite loyalty, a measurement that is a mixture of attitudinal and behavioral approaches. Considering the differences in measuring customer loyalty, Benneth and Bove (2002) recommended to combine attitudinal and behavioural loyalty to make marketing efforts more specific to the underlying factors. There are many factors that become the antecedents of customer loyalty. Trust, commitment, satisfaction, communication, and conflict handling are among variables that affect customer loyalty (Boora & Singh, 2011). Customer loyalty is not only to a product or service, but it can also be loyalty to the store. Research by Swimberghe, Sharma, and Flurry (2009) found that consumer religious commitment significantly influences store loyalty and complaint intentions.

#### 2.2 Brand Image

Brand image is a reflection of a brand held in consumer memory (Saleem & Raja, 2014). Products or services that provide the same benefits will sometimes differ in value when a brand is attached to it. The addition of a certain name or logo on a product or service will increase economic benefits many times for the company that produces it. In a brand, colour also plays an important role in consumer buying decisions (Ghaderi, Ruiz, & Agell, 2015). There are two kinds of image relating organization type. According to Mohajerani and Miremadi (2012), image of service organization is different, and consequently, each customer has distinct types of expected impression, experiences and contacts with the organization, and that leads to a different image acceptance. Brand image can be formed from the type of distribution channel used by the company. Research conducted by Blom, Lange, and Hess (2017) found that companies that use omnichannel-based promotion increase not only purchases, but also brand image. In the context of banking services, research by Ahmad, Rustam, and Dent (2011) found that brands are one of the important factors in choosing Islamic banks in addition to ease of use and quality of interaction with consumers. Brand image influences customer satisfaction in the context of hotel industry (Lahap et al., 2016), customer loyalty in telecommunication services (Sirapracha & Tocquer, 2012), and consumer buying behavior (Malik et al., 2013). Other companies that are also engaged in services are airlines. Dirsehan and Kurtulus (2018) found the importance of increasing flight comfort, training cabin crew, providing free appetizers,



improving service quality, and ensuring timely departures in creating and sustaining a positive brand image.

#### 2.3 Customer Value

Literature review by Chen (2015) summarizes that customer value is well recognized for its contribution to maintenance varied business relationship. To form a competitive customer value proposition, the company needs to understand what customer value is. There are two ways to understand customer value. Firstly, by finding out the comparison between the benefits and costs incurred by the customer, and secondly, by conceptualizing the main outcome of expenditure represented by the dimension of customer value (Rintamaki & Kirves, 2016). Merz, Zarantonello, and Grappi (2018) said that value, in general, is established by the beneficiary through perceived use value. Hong and Zhuging (2012) stated that customer perceived value is established in value transmission mechanism of its rear, which is based on the role of consumption values. There are different terms for customer value used in the research. Some scholars use value, and others use customer economic value. This is because the meanings of customer value are described from different angles. Potra et al (2017) tried to restrict consumer value between the perception in pre-purchase and post-purchase. They extracted the first concepts a new model needs for measuring the value perception of the customer before use/purchase. To have a pleasant experience, customers combine their functional and emotional value. Cretu and Brodie (2007) summarized past research and found that customer value will influence customer loyalty.

#### 2.4 Proposed Model and Hypotheses

Based on literature review, the model as illustrated in Figure 1 is proposed. According to the model, brand image and customer value have positive influence on customer loyalty. Besides the direct effect, there is also indirect brand image on customer loyalty through customer value.

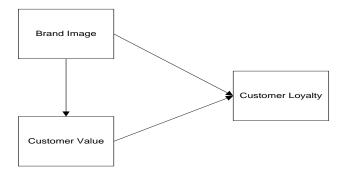


Figure 1: Proposed Model



The hypotheses in this research are:

- H1 : brand image has a positive impact on customer loyalty
- H2 : customer value has a positive impact on customer loyalty
- H3 : brand image has a positive impact on customer value
- H4 : brand image has indirect impact on customer loyalty through customer value

#### 3. Method

The sample in this study was sharia banking customers in Pekanbaru City. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling with the criteria of being a sharia banking customer. The questionnaire in this study consisted of four parts of questions about demographics, brand image, customer value, and customer loyalty. Variable measurements were carried out using a five-point Likert scale. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed and only 194 questionnaires were feasible for further analysis. Validity testing was done using Pearson correlation, while reliability testing was done using Cronbach's Alpha. After testing the validity and reliability, the data were processed using structural equation modeling with AMOS Graphic software.

#### 4. Result and Discussion

Respondents in this study consisted of 78 (40.2%) men and 116 (59.8%) women. The age range consisted of respondents aged 18 to 65 years with a mean of 29 years. Before further analysis, the data collected were analyzed for validity and reliability. The results of testing the validity and reliability can be seen in Table 1. Based on the data in Table 1 it is proven that the data collected were valid and reliable.

Variable	Item	Validity	Reliability	
	BI01	0.738		
	BI02	0.774		
Brand Image	BI03	0.660	0.950	
	BI04	0.810	0.850	
	BI05	0.792		
	BI06	0.772		
	CV01	0.891		
Customer Value	CV02	0.864	0.839	
	CV03	0.873		
Customer Loyalty	CL01	0.719		
	CL02	0.749	0.613	
	CL03	0.600	0.013	
	CL04	0.662		

The next test is the goodness of fit model. The test results using AMOS graphic shows the value of CMIN/DF of 2.047, GFI of 0.905, AGFI of 0.860, TLI of 0.918, CFI of 0.935, and RMSEA of 0.074. Next Table 2 shows the results of testing structural equation modeling. It appears that all hypotheses have a positive and significant influence. The most dominant influence is the brand image to customer value, followed by customer value to customer loyalty.



Table 2: Hypothesis Testing							
			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	Р	Label
Customer_Value	<	Brand_Image	.920	.120	7.655	***	par_13
Customer_Loyalty	<	Brand_Image	.332	.165	2.020	.043	par_11
Customer_Loyalty	<	Customer_Value	.455	.140	3.254	.001	par_12

#### Table 2: Hypothesis Testing

Furthermore, Table 3 shows the direct and indirect effects of brand image on customer loyalty. Based on the data in Table 3, it can be seen that the brand image affects customer value by 58.3% and then brand image and customer value affect customer loyalty by 53.4%. The direct effect of brand image on customer loyalty is smaller than the indirect effect of brand image on customer loyalty through customer value (0.292 < 0.369). This study found a positive and significant effect between brand image and customer value. However, Cretu and Brodie (2007) in their study found no significant support for this relationship. Furthermore, brand image also has a positive and significant effect on customer loyalty. This is in line with their research in which there was no significant influence between brand image and customer loyalty. As for the effect of customer value on customer loyalty, this study contradicts the two previous findings but confirms the findings of Cretu and Brodie (2007) who found that between customer value and customer loyalty there is a positive and significant effect. A research by Chen (2015) stated that there is a variable that moderates this relationship. His research found that competition is a moderator of the relationship between customer value and customer loyalty both from the consumer perspective and employee perspective. Table 3 depicts the direct and indirect effect of the relationship between brand image, customer value, and customer loyalty.

Variable	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Total Effect
Brand Image	0.292	$(0.763 \times 0.483) = 0.369$	0.661
Customer Value	0.483		

Table 3: Effect of E	Brand Image on Cust	tomer Loyalty throug	gh Customer Value

To find out whether customer value is a mediating variable, it is done by testing the value of Variance Accounted For (VAF). Mediation testing is done by comparing the value of indirect effects with total influence. The criteria for determining whether full or partial mediation are VAF> 0.8 means full mediation, between 0.2 - 0.8 means partial mediation, and VAF <0.2 means not a mediating variable. Based on this formula, brand image  $\rightarrow$  customer value  $\rightarrow$  customer loyalty = 0.369 / (0.369 + 0.292) = 0.56. This means that customer value is partial mediation. Because the direct effect is smaller than the indirect effect, we may conclude that there is a role of customer value on the relationship between the brand image and customer relationship. If consumers feel the value of a product, the impact of the brand image on customer loyalty will be stronger.

#### 5. Conclusion

The results of this study confirm the previous research that brand image and customer value are important factors that affect customer loyalty. This study also found that the customer value variable only partially mediates the indirect influence between brand image and customer loyalty. Product innovation is currently growing because it is



supported by very rapid technological developments. The emergence of various competing products will threaten the sustainability of a company. For this reason, it is important to maintain customer loyalty with a variety of efforts which this study proves as the strong influence of brand image and customer value. Therefore, the company should pay close attention to the brand image and the value that will be given to the customers to maintain loyalty.

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