### PURCHASING BEHAVIOR AND CHALLENGES TOWARDS ONLINE SHOPPING OF ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTS- ACONSUMERPERSPECTIVEIN PUNECITY PURCHASING BEHAVIOR AND CHALLENGES TOWARDS ONLINE SHOPPING OF

# ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTS- ACONSUMERPERSPECTIVEIN PUNECITY.

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Environmental issues are of great interest to a vast number of consumers worldwide, sensitive toinformationaboutthe products, brands, andprocessing are could have an impact on the environment in addition to the environment itself. Customers are becoming more mindful of the importance of environmental deterioration, which leads toadesire to buy organic goods which are perceived as healthy and nature friendly. The purpose of the study is to analyse purchasing behaviour and challenges faced by Pune consumers whileonline shopping of organic food products. The analysed data was collected from 99 Pune cityresidents with structured questionnaire. The conclusively shows survey that consumers' decisionstopurchaseorganicfooditemsareprimarilyinfluencedbythehealthbenefitsandalsoCompared to regular food products on the market, organic food items are of higher quality. Asorganic products are hard to come by, customers would rather purchase these goods online orthrough apps rather than going to their neighbourhood stores. The vast majority of consumers choose to purchase these products through the Big Basket app to avoid hassles and to save time. On the other hand, their degree of organic food purchases is moderate. Its expensive price is the primary cause of this. The Government should run marketing campaigns and promotions toeducate the public about the advantages of switching to organic products. The information of theorganic food should be given to school children for raising future healthy generation in India. Additionally, the government should make simpler certification process with subsided prices toattractmore consumers.

Keywords-Organic Food, Consumer Behavior, Sustainable consumption, Green Consumers

#### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture in India was more natural and organic when the country's population was smaller. The agricultural system that relies on the customs and knowledge passed down through thegenerations enough unable produce food support growing population. was to Farmersextensivelyembracedtechnicalinnovationsinagricultureduringthe"greenrevolution"tomaximiz production and satisfy the rapidly growing population's The production of foodgrains increased many times as a result of the green revolution, which paid off handsomely. Concurrently, this has resulted in a rise in the application of chemical pesticidesandfertilizers, whichhavedetrimentaleffects onboth theenvironment and human health. Organic food is grown and cultivated without the application of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or genetically modified (GM) ingredients, all of which have the potential to be harmful to humanhealth. Meat, cheese, and eggs from animals can also be classified as organic. Certified organiceggs originate from hens that are allowed to roam freely, as opposed to those kept in cages, whileorganicmeat is devoid ofhormones and antibiotics.

Whereas Modern food, sometimes referred to a.s non-organic food, is typically farmed with theuse of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. By keeping pests at bay, these synthetic ingredients decrease food production boost food ensure sufficient Non-organic waste and to supply. meatmaycontainhormonesandantibiotics, and non-

organic food may also contain genetically modified in gredients.

An item that displays an organic label has been certified to meet particular organic requirements. The certifying body's name and the standards it adheres with are displayed on the label.

As consumers are not sure about the authenticity of the organic food, many are afraid to purchaseit. Fraud and mislabelling arise when a FoodBusiness Operator (FBO) labels a product asorganic when it contains non-organic ingredients or when the production process does not adhereto the regulations for organic production. It is therefore essential to confirm whether food labeledas "organic" is, in fact,

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organic.

An identifying mark to differentiate organic products from non-organic ones is the Jaivik Bharatlogo for Organic Food. The slogan "Jaivik Bharat"—which means "Organic Food from India" atthebottom of theemblem serves as support.

**ShopsinPune**Theseare afewstoresthat supplyPuneCitywith organicfooditems.

- Satvyk-TheHealthRestore
- HelloGreen-Organic FoodUnit
- Millets& More
- Adrish-TheOrganic Store
- GoodFood OrganicStore
- OrganicHeritage
- Nature'sBasket
- Swap4pure

It has been noted that Majority of consumers prefer to purchase organic products online. Organic grocery product websites and apps generally have the highest quality and variety of products available in a single click. There are discounts and offers available on online stores and apps. Itcan even help consumers save a little money. The most significant benefit of internet purchasingis the time and effort savings. Most of these websites or apps offer 24-hour delivery services, socustomers only need to choose the items they want to buy and they will be delivered to theirhome quickly.

A study reveals that India, with 20% of the world population, consumes only 1% of total organic produce, despite its largest farmlands, highlighting challenges in the organic food market. Indiansociety's prejudice towards organic food has led to limited awareness and a preference for lower-priced options. This prejudice is influenced by the perception that organic food symbolizes statusand luxury, rather than a sustainable solution. This has resulted in a significant portion of theIndian diaspora opting out of the organic food market. The Indian retail market favors fastmoving, cheaperorganic products, creating agap between buyers and sellers. Traditional farming familiar with chemical fertilizers, also discourage organic farming, as manyfarmersfear the change may not yield the same results. The demand and supply gaps in the Indian organic food market need to be balanced to ensure a balanced market, as seen in the highdemand for jaggery powder in Uttar Pradesh as compared to its supply. The Indian market fororganic food products still has a long way to go. However, we cannot ignore the reality thatorganic food items have become more well-known and well-liked among consumers in recentyears. This isn't just happening in cities; it's happening in rural regions too, mostly becauseeveryone has easier access to information and is aware of the advantages of living a betterlifestyle and supporting organic farming. If the main obstacles are resolved promptly, There ishope that the Indian market will witness innovation in addition to an increase in organic

foodproducts. The Indianorganic foodmarket appears to be making progress despite all these obstacles, partic ularly in thewakeof COVID-19.

The first step in creating demand for organic products is raising consumer awareness of organicfoods" (Briz and Ward, 2009). These days, people are more concerned with quality than withmoney. Buying organic food is driven by a number of important considerations, such as productquality, subjective norms, healthand lifestyle considerations, and environmental concerns

InIndia, certified organic farms provide 14,000 tonnes of organic foodproduction, according to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). However, the FAO has not included all of the organic farming areas. Food that has been grown on organic farms may occasionally gounrecognized because the producers have not registered their names or paid the registration feesforformalcertification.

Amul Organic is a new business that the Amul company has launched. In order to fully avoidusing chemicals and other dangerous substances, they have implemented teaching programstargeted directly at farmers as part of this endeavor. Amul Organic has implemented incentiveschemes to assist farmers in lowering costs per hectare, as organic farming is typically more expensive than conventional farming

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#### **LITERATUREREVIEW**

Desai (2021) stated that, The COVID pandemic heightened the demand for organic food due toitsperceivedhealthandimmunitybenefits, resultingina constantincreaseinorganicand sustainable food consumption. Organic farming is a sustainable farming method that maintainsand enhances by using organic inputs ecological balance like green manures Itpreservessoil'sreproductivecapacity, promotes plant nutrition, and supports carbon sequestration.

Organic farming also protects pollinators from toxic chemicals and rebuilds soilhealth, ensuring water and soil resources are protected.

According to RishabhChokhani, Founder of Nature vibe Botanicals, Organic products are rich innutrients such as omega 3 fatty acids, antioxidants, and vitamins A and B, are safer and provideimmune system strength, reducing the risk of heart and skin disease, cancer and arthritis. Asstated in an article published in Indian Express, Organic diets are environmentally friendly, healthier, and more sustainable than regular food, offering better taste and a healthier alternativeto harmful components. Organic farming practices are environmentally friendly by reducing theuse of harmful chemicals and pesticides used in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, and dairyproducts, which not only benefit consumers but also farmers and the local communities. Genetically modified organisms alter plant and animal DNA for nutrition and traits, but cancontain toxic chemicals, pesticides, and antibiotics, causing organ damage and gastrointestinaldisordersversus Non-GMO foodswhich offersmorenutrients.

Robinson, Sergal (2020) mentioned that Organically raised animals are not raised on antibiotics, growth hormones, and byproducts which reduce the risk of mad cow disease. They are raised in an environment where they have more outdoor space. A 2016 European study revealed thatorganic meat and milk contain up to 50% higher levels of certain nutrients, including omega-3fattyacids.Organicfoodistypicallymoreexpensivethanconventionallygrownfood.Assuggestedbytheaut hor,tokeeporganicfoodcostswithinbudget,variousoptionsareshoppingat farmers' markets, joining a food co-op that offers lower prices to its members, or joining aCommunity Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm. These options offer lower prices and directaccess to local produce, making them a more sustainable choice. Organic food buying tipsinclude buying in season, shopping around, and comparing prices. However, organic foods maynot always be healthy, as they may contain highsugar, salt, fat, or calories henceit's importanttoread food labels carefully.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Tounderstandawareness of organic foodproducts 1.
- 2. Toidentifyconsumers' preferred method of shopping
- Toanalyzethefactors influencingconsumer purchasebehaviour 3.
- 4. Toidentifythechallengesfacedbyconsumerswhileonlinepurchasingoforganicfoodproducts.

#### DATAANALYSIS ANDINTERPRETATION

Occupation							
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent		
Valid	Business	26	26.3	26.3	26.3		
	HouseWife	12	12.1	12.1	38.4		
	NotWorking	2	2.0	2.0	40.4		
	Salaried	49	49.5	49.5	89.9		
	Student	10	10.1	10.1	100.0		
	Total	99	100.0	100.0			

**DataInterpretation**:Oftherespondents, 26.3% are inbusiness, 12.1% are housewives, 49% are salaried employees, and 10% are students.

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Month	MonthlyIncome								
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent				
Valid	5000-25000	16	16.2	16.2	16.2				
	26000-75000	34	34.3	34.3	50.5				
	76000-100000	28	28.3	28.3	78.8				
	1Lakh &Above	21	21.2	21.2	100.0				
	Total	99	100.0	100.0					

**DataInterpretation**: The datashow that approximately 34.3% of respondents have a monthly salary between 26,000 and 75,000,49.5% have an income over 76,000, and approximately 16.2 % have a monthly income between 5,000 and 25,000.

Accor	AccordingtoyouwhatisanOrganicfood?								
		Frequency	D.	ValidPercent					
			Percent		nt				
Valid	Food grown without use ofchemicalfertilizers	11	10.6	10.6	10.6				
	Foodgrown withoutpesticide	17	16.3	16.3	26.3				
	HealthyNutritious	10	11.5	11.5	38.4				
	IndigenousFood	5	4.8	4.8	43.2				
	GrownwithManure	8	7.7	7.7	50.9				
	NaturalFood	10	9.6	9.6	60.5				
	Allof theabove	41	39.4	39.4	1000				
	Total	104	100.0	100.0					

**Data Interpretation**: According to the majority of respondents (i.e., 39%), organic food isdefinedasFoodgrownwithoutuseofchemicalfertilizers,Foodgrownwithoutpesticide,HealthyNutritious, Indigenous Food,Grown withManureandNatural Food

Doyou	Doyouconsumeorganicfoodproducts?							
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent			
Valid	Maybe	10	10.1	10.1	10.1			
	No	3	3.0	3.0	13.1			
	Yes	86	86.9	86.9	100.0			
	Total	99	100.0	100.0				

**DataInterpretation**:Oftherespondents,86% eatorganic foodproducts,3% donot, and 10% are unclear.

Howoftendoyouconsumeorganicfoodproducts?							
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent		
Valid	Daily	54	55.7	55.7	55.7		
	onceaweek	34	35.1	35.1	90.8		
	oncein15days	5	5.2	5.2	96.00		
	onceamonth	2	2.1	2.1	98.1		
	Never	2	2.1	2.1	100.0		
	Total	97	100.0	100.0			

**Data Interpretation**: 55.7 percent of respondents said they consume organic products everyday, compared to 35.1% who consume them once a week, 5.2% who consume them once every15days, and 2% who consumethem onceamonth or never

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Sincewhenareyouconsumingorganicfoodproducts						
				CumulativePercent		
	Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent			
Valid More than 2 Months	10	10.1	10.1	10.1		
Less than 06 Months	7	7.1	7.1	17.2		
Less than a year	27	27.3	27.3	44.5		
More than 02 years	55	55.6	55.6	100.0		
Total	99	100.0	100.0			

Data Interpretation: Of the respondents, 55.6% have been consuming organic products formore than two years, followed by 27.3% who have been doing so for more than a year, 7% whohave been doing so for less than six months, and 10% who have been doing so More than 02months.

Whatl	Whatkindoforganicfooddoyouconsume?							
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent			
Valid	Beverages(OrganicTea,coffe e,jaljeera,aam panna nimbupani,sugarcanejuice,to ddy, kokumjuice)		6.1	6.1	6.1			
	DairyProducts	14	14.1	14.1	20.2			
	Fruits	23	23.2	23.2	43.4			
	Grains	18	18.2	18.2	61.6			
	Legumes	6	6.1	6.1	67.7			
	Eggs&Meat	2	2.0	2.0	69.7			
	Vegetables	30	30.3	30.3	100.0			
	Total	99	100.0	100.0				

Data Interpretation: In the above table, it is shown that thirty-three percent of respondents areconsuming organic vegetables, twenty-two percent are consuming fruits, eighteen percent areconsuming grains, fourteen-one percent are consuming dairy products, six percent are consumingorganiclegumes andorganichotandsoftdrinks, andtwopercentareconsumingeggsandmeat.

${\bf According to you what are the determining factors to purchase organic foodproducts?}$							
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent		
Valid	Environment concern	7	8.3	8.3	8.3		
	Freshness	4	4.8	4.8	13.1		
	Healthbenefits	41	48.8	48.8	61.9		
	Nousageofpesticide	11	13.1	13.1	75.00		
	Due to Recentdiettrends	7	8.3	8.3	83.3		
	Socialpressure	6	7.1	7.1	90.5		
	Taste	8	9.5	9.5	100.0		
	Total	84	100.0	100.0			

Data Interpretation: The factors influencing the decision to buy organic food products are displayed in the above table. The majority of respondents (48.8%) claim that health benefits Journal of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies Pg. 100

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aretheprimaryfactorinfluencingtheirdecisionto buyorganicfoodproducts. While 9.5% of respondents like the taste of organic food products, 8.3% of respondents buy organic foodproducts due to the fact that they are concerned about the environment and recent diet trends, and 13.1% of respondents cite the absence of usage of pesticides as the second important factorinfluencing their decision to buy organic food products. 7.1% of respondents said they buyorganic foodproducts as a said they buyorganic foodproducts as a said they organic foodproducts.

Whatisyourpreferredmethodwhilepurchasingorganicfood?							
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent		
Valid	Directfromfarm	40	40.4	40.4	40.4		
	localshops	6	6.1	6.1	46.5		
	Onlinesites	53	53.5	53.5	100.0		
	Total	99	100.0	100.0			

**Data Interpretation: The** majority of consumers (53 percent) prefer to purchase organic goodsfromOnlinesites,whereas40.4% prefertopurchase directly from farms. Just 6.1% of consumers buy it from nearby stores.

Which	Which of the following online platforms do you use for purchasing organic food?							
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent			
Valid	BigBasket	66	66.7	66.7	66.7			
	Blinkit	4	4.0	4.0	70.7			
	Dunzo	5	5.1	5.1	75.8			
	FarmFresh	14	14.1	14.1	89.9			
	Grofers	6	6.1	6.1	96.0			
	Orgpick	2	2.0	2.0	98.0			
	Zepto	2	2.0	2.0	100.0			
	Total	99	100.0	100.0				

**DataInterpretation:** 66.7% of consumers use the Big Basket apptoorder organic food, compared to 14.1% who buy from farm-fresh, Blinkit, Dunzo, and other apps

Onascaleof1to5pleaserateyourlevelofsatisfactionofconsumptionoforganicfood?(1-							
Notsure,2-Notsatisfied,	3-						
Neutral,4-Satisfied,5-Highlysatisfied)							

		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent
Valid	Notsure	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
	NotSatisfied	2	2.0	2.0	3.0
	Neutral	4	4.0	4.0	7.1
	Satisfied	51	51.5	51.5	58.6
	HighlySatisfied	41	41.4	41.4	100.0
	Total	99	100.0	100.0	

**Data Interpretation:** Out of the total respondents gathered for the study, the above tableindicatesthat 51.5% of respondents are satisfied with organic products, 41.1% are highly satisfied, 2%

are dissatisfied with organic products, 1% are unsure of their level of satisfaction, and only 4% arefeeling neutral aboutorganic products.

HowwouldtoratequalityofOrganicfoodproductscomparedtoregularfoodproductsavailable

		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent
Valid	Average	9	9.1	9.1	9.1
	Excellent	37	37.4	37.4	46.5
	Good	52	52.5	52.5	99.0
	Poor	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	99	100.0	100.0	

**Data Interpretation:** According to the above data, of all respondents, 52.5% say that the quality of organic food items is good than that of ordinary food products on the market, and 37.4% say it is great. 9.1% of respondents believe it to be ordinary, while 1% believe the quality of organic food products is subpar.

Howwouldtoperceive		ive th	the price of Organic food products compared to the quality?				
					CumulativePercent		
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPerce			
				nt			
Valid	Affordable	18	18.2	18.2	18.2		
	Average	13	13.1	13.1	31.3		
	Exorbitant	68	68.7	68.7	100.0		
	Total	99	100.0	100.0			

**Data Interpretation**: This graphic shows how consumers assess the value of organic foodproducts in relation to their cost. Sixty-seven percent of the respondents thought that the prices of organic food goodswere excessive. Just 18% believe it to be affordable.

PleaseselectthechallengesfacedbyyouwhileonlinepurchasingofOrganicfoodproducts?										
		Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent					
	Availability	19	19.2	19.2	19.2					
	Foodlabels notmentioni ngcertification	18	18.2	18.2	37.4					
	less shelflife	7	7.1	7.1	44.4					
	Poorquality	11	11.1	11.1	55.6					
	Price	44	44.4	44.4	100.0					
	Total	99	100.0	100.0						

**Data Interpretation**: According to the data in this table, the majority of respondents—44.4%—said that the main obstacle to buying organic food products is their high price, while 18.2% ofrespondents said that the absence of food labels to mention certification is a problem whenbuying organic food products online. Organic food goods are difficult to find, according to 19% of respondents. Of those surveyed, 11.1% felt that the products on the market were of lowquality.

#### **FINDINGS**

In accordance with the tabular form presented below, the following conclusions were derived from the analysis of data:

1. According to the majority of respondents (i.e., 39%), organic food is defined as Foodgrownwithoutuseofchemicalfertilizers, Foodgrownwithoutpesticide, Healthy Nutritious, Indigenou

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sFood, Grownwith ManureandNaturalFood

- 2. Oftherespondents, 86% eat organic foodproducts, 3% donot, and 10% areunclear.
- 3. 55.7 percent of respondents said they consume organic products every day, compared to 35.1% who consume them once a week, 5.2% who consume them once every 15 days, and 2% who consume them once amonth or never
- 4. Of the respondents, 55.6% have been consuming organic products for more than two years, followed by 27.3% who have been doing so for more than a year, 7% who havebeen doing so for less than six months, and 10% who have been doing so More than 02months.
- 5. thirty-three percent of respondents are consuming organic vegetables, twenty-two percentare consuming fruits, eighteen percent are consuming grains, fourteen-one percent areconsuming dairy products, six percent are consuming organic legumes and organic hotandsoft drinks, and two percentare consuming eggs and meat.
- 6. The majority of respondents (48.8%) claim that health benefits are the primary factorinfluencingtheir decision to buy organic food products.
- 7. The majority of consumers (53 percent) prefer to purchase organic goods from Onlinesites, whereas 40.4% prefer to purchase directly from farms. Just 6.1% of consumers buyitfrom nearby stores.
- 8. 66.7% of consumers use the BigBasketapp to order organic food
- 9. 51.5% of respondents are satisfied with organic products, 41.1% are highly satisfied, 2% are dissatisfied with organic products, 1% are unsure of their level of satisfaction, and only 4% are feeling neutral about organic products.
- 10. According to the above data, of all respondents, 52.5% say that the quality of organic food items is good than that of ordinary food products on the market, and 37.4% say it is great. 9.1% of respondents believe it to be ordinary, while 1% believe the quality of organic food products is subpar.
- 11. Sixty-seven percent of the respondents thought that the prices of organic food goods wereexcessive. Just 18% believe t to be affordable.
- 12. the majority of respondents—44.4%—said that the main obstacle to buying organic foodproducts is their high price, while 18.2% of respondents said that the absence of foodlabels to mention certification is a problem when buying organic food products online. Organic food goods are difficult to find, according to 19% of respondents. Of those surveyed, 11.1% felt that the products on the marketwere of low quality

#### **CONCLUSION**

Considering the interpretation of the statistics mentioned above, it is clear that people are becoming more and more aware of the many advantages of consuming organic food, as seen by the daily rise in the consumption of organic food.

The least likely customers to purchase organic food are those with average monthly incomes andlackof knowledgeof organic foods.

Food grown without the use of artificial fertilizers, food grown without pesticides, food that ishealthy and nutritious, food that is indigenous, food that is grown with manure, and natural foodarethe predominant definitions of organic food given by the majority of respondents.

For more than two years, the majority of those interviewed have been consuming organic items such as organic eggs and meat, as well as organic vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy products, andhot andsoft drinks.

The survey conclusively shows that consumers' decisions to purchase organic food items are primarily influenced by the health benefits and also Compared to regular food products on themarket, organic food items are of higher quality.

As organic products are hard to come by, customers would rather purchase these goods online orthroughapps rather thangoing to their neighbourhood stores.

The vast majority of consumers choose to purchase these products through the Big Basket app inorderto avoid hasslesand to savetime

On the other hand, their degree of organic food purchases is moderate. Its expensive price is theprimary cause of this.

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Theprimarydeterrentstopurchasingorganicfooditemsaretheirhighcost,thelackofcertification on food labels, and the challenge of locating high-quality organic food productsonlineor in local market

#### **SUGGESTIONS**

Organicfoodissafeandwholesomebecauseitdoesn'tincludeanychemicalsorpesticides. There has been a minor shift in the demand for organic products, especially fruit and vegetables, in Pune city due to increased consumer awareness of organic food, especially amongst youngergenerations. The Government should run marketing campaigns and promotions to educate thepublic about the advantages of switching to organic products. The information of Healthy as wellas organic food taught to school children for raising future healthy India. Additionally, the government ought to make its impler certified and more in expensive for customers in puneto obtain organic products.

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