

Impact of Tourist Service Quality in Four and Five Stars Hotels in Jordan on Tourist Behavior

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Abstract

The study aimed to investigate the impact of service quality on tourist behavior in five and four stars hotels in Jordan. A self administered questionnaire was designed and distributed over a sample of hotels guest in Amman, the capital amounting 90 guests. The collected data was analyzed the study findings indicated that service quality impact tourists behavior and all service quality dimensions (reliability, responsiveness, assurance, empathy and tangible) also have an impact on tourist behavior. The study suggested some recommendations.

Keywords: service quality, Tourist behavior, hotels

1. Introduction

Since the last decades of the last century many service companies have pursued to enhance their performance and effectiveness in search of achieving differentiation in the market. An example of that is the attempt to convince customers that their quality are superior compared significantly either in developed and developing countries and in the same time research on services has grown also. Academics and practitioners have exhibited considerable interest in issues related measurement of service quality. Many attempts and studies were conducted around the world to discuss service quality for the purpose of investigating its relation different aspects such as customer satisfaction, customer loyalty and other related issues.

Service quality is one of the major issues facing managers but it is an area characterized by debate concerning the need for assessing customer expectations and service quality assessment The importance of service quality has emerged as a fundamental element due to the rapid growth of the services sector and the competition among firms.

With respect to service quality in tourism sector many researcher stated that service quality is a necessary strategy to win the tourism industry in the twenty-first century. On the specific sector of hospitality.

Authors who conducted studies about service quality manifested their concern about the dimensions and methods used to measure service quality in hotels. In Addition to the intrinsic characteristics of the services – heterogeneity, simultaneously, perish ability and intangibility other factors in hospitality industry such as e seasonal demand and imprecise standards. There are three benefits arise from quality: Consumer satisfaction. Superior quality strengths the company's competitiveness by better reputation, more repetitive business and less invisible consumers lost. Productivity/profitability. Decrease of wasted resources due to the lack of quality, which will allow the company to spare costs and enhancements in operations.) Human resources. Employees that provide high-quality services will have a positive attitude toward work environment and better performances. Differentiation through quality protects the business from competitors through enhancing loyalty, decreasing their sensibility to price and avoiding other competitive strengths that reduce price/cost margins.

This study aims to investigate the impact of tourist service quality on tourist behavior.

2. Research Significance

The research significance stems from the following:

A-It may provide a baseline data that can be used to set directions in analyzing the impact of tourist service quality on tourist behavior.

B- It may contribute in the growing interest of service quality from the perspective of Jordanian hotel's top management.

C-It many provide the hotel's top management with the latest trends and perspective on

service quality in tourism industry

3. Research Questions

This research is an attempt to answer the following research questions:

- 1-What is the level of tourist service quality in Jordanian five and four stars hotels?
- 2-Do Jordanian five and four stars hotels implement service quality dimension ?
- 4-Is there any impact of service quality on guest behavior ?

4. Research Objectives

- 1-To explore the dimensions of service quality as perceived by hotel's top management in Jordan.
- 2-To find out the driving factors for implementing service quality in five and four stars Jordanian hotels.
- 3-To specify the impact of implementing service quality in five and four stars hotels in Jordan on the guest behavior

5. Study Hypotheses

The main hypothesis

Ho1: There is no statistically significance impact of service quality on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels in Jordan.

The following hypotheses are derived from

Ho1-1: There is no statistically significance impact of reliability on consumer behavior

Ho1-2: There is no statistically significance impact of responsiveness on consumers behavior in five and four stars hotels

Ho1-3: There is no statistically significance impact of assurance on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels

Ho1-4: There is no statistically significance impact of empathy on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels

Ho1-5: There is no statistically significance impact of tangibility on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels

6. Literature Review

Last decades witnessed large movement of persons for business and commercial needs. Movement of persons grew and still growing for sightseeing and excursion purposes. The availability of transportation means have resulted into movement of large number of people. All of which leads to increase the demand for lodging and boarding. This has resulted in the

establishment of hotels. Type of services provided by a typical modern hotel can be broadly classified as primary, secondary and additional services. The primary purpose of a hotel is to provide the customer with lodging and boarding. Secondary services include services which enhance the quality of primary service. It makes the stay in the hotel more enjoyable. The services provided in the secondary services include entertainment services, swimming pool, dance room, gymnasium, games and sports facilities, television, internet, teleconferencing and other business related services and comfortable lobby space. Some additional services were added to the basic hospitality service which include conference room facilities, transportation service, business centre and mail-handling facilities, telephone service in the room, health related service, money changing facility, shopping complex, exhibition rooms and sightseeing service and other services. Every industry nowadays faces increasing competition. Hotel industry is not exception. The availability of many hotel groups in the market indicates that there is a large level of competition. Any hotel, seeks to earn a reasonable rate of return, so, retaining regular customers and attracting new customers are the most priorities for its management. (Gill and Gill, 2012).

Service quality enables the firm to differentiate itself from its competition, gain a sustainable competitive advantage, and enhance efficiency .Service quality provides the firm with increased customer satisfaction, improved customer retention, positive word of mouth, reduced staff turnover, decreased operating costs, enlarged marketshare, increased profitability, and improved financial performance .

Tourism is considered as the driving force for country development, since tourism can enhance income, employment and government revenues. Therefore providing high service quality for enhancing tourist satisfaction has become an important concern for sustainable tourism destination management (Liu,. and Yen, 2010). To be able to attract the tourists to revisit and recommend destinations to others is another important part to build a success of tourism destination development (Chen,. and Tsai, 2007). . Service quality is a measure of how well the level of service delivered matches customer expectations. Hospitality sector is a major service oriented sector in the economy of a nation .

Tourist satisfaction is recognized as one of the key judgments that tourists use to measure tourism services, while future behavior intentions are very closely connected with satisfaction. The expression of satisfaction will result in behavioral responses to recommend, say positive things about and revisit to destinations.

It is well known that visitor retention for all tourism providers, plays a major role in organization's profitability. Behavior is determined by a tourist's intention to perform or not to perform a subjective behavior. Behavioral intentions are defined as the customers' willingness to recommend the service to others and repurchase intent (Zeithaml, Bitner,. and Gremler, 2009) . These behavioral intentions can be viewed as positive and negative consequences of service quality. The behavioral intention is determined by attitude toward performing the behavior and subjective norm. Service quality is considered as a predictor for consumer behavior (Lee, Huh, and Hong, 2008)

The behavioural intentions of customers are recognised in the literature as an important predictor of the profitability of service firms. Both the costs and the revenue of firms are affected by repeat purchases, positive word-of-mouth recommendation, and customer feedback. Moreover, there is strong evidence that service quality has either a direct influence on the behavioural intentions of customers and/or an indirect influence on such intentions, mediated through customer satisfaction (Cronin et al., 2000).

Many researchers have studied the hospitality industry in general and hotel industry in particular regarding the quality of service provided by these organizations

Ivyanno and Nila (2012) examined the influence of service quality and tourist satisfaction on the future behavioral intentions of domestic local tourists in Borobudur temple Magelang, Central Java Indonesia using SERVQUAL model. The study revealed that service quality has a positive influence on tourist satisfaction and a positive influence also exists between tourist satisfactions on future behavioral intentions. Tangible was the most influencing dimension of service quality.

Abu Ali and Howaidee (2012) study aimed to offer an integrated approach to understanding tourist satisfaction by examining the theoretical and empirical evidence on the causal relationships among the components of tourism product and overall tourist satisfaction. The results supported the proposed model: (1) destination facilities and accessibility and attraction directly influenced tourist satisfaction; (2) there is a significant impact of the service quality on tourist satisfaction.

Gour and Theingi (2009) examine the relationships among the constructs of service quality, satisfaction, and behavioural intentions in passengers of three low-cost carriers offering airline services in Thailand. The study found that passenger satisfaction with service-quality dimensions is very important in explaining behavioural intentions. Such customers engage in positive word-of-mouth communication and have high repurchase intentions. Dissatisfied passengers prefer to change airlines, rather than provide feedback to the company.

Ladhar (2009) study aimed to develop and test a conceptual model of the relationships among the constructs of “service quality”, “emotional satisfaction”, and “behavioural intention” in the hospitality industry. The study results confirm that service quality exerts both direct and indirect effects (through emotional satisfaction) on behavioural intentions.

Akbaba (2006) has said that the role of service quality in the success of hotel businesses cannot be denied. It is vital for the hotel managers to have a good understanding on what exactly the customers want.

McCaina and Shiang-Lih (2005) conducted a gap analysis between loyal customers and potential switchers in evaluating service quality attributes. They found that the top three gaps were all related to the functional quality (interactions between customers, and employees), not technical quality and customer relation

Raymond and Choi (2001) examined the relative importance of hotel factors in relation to

travelers" overall satisfaction levels with their hotel stays in Hong Kong and the likelihood of returning to the same hotels in their subsequent trips., They found that staff Service Quality", „Room Qualities" and „Value" were the three most influential factors in determining travelers" overall satisfaction levels and their likelihood of returning to the same hotels

7. Methodology

The study used the methodology that can help in investigating the impact of tourist service quality on tourist behaviour . All needed data were collected through using different means and methods .So the methodology that was followed included the research approach, data collection methods, questionnaire design and analysis approaches used for data analysis..

7.1 Research Approach

There are two types of research approaches namely: qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative approach concerned with collecting and analyzing non numeric data . , it includes the use of field observations, focus groups and in-depth interviews it deals with how people understand their experiences. The second type is the quantitative approach which aims to develop and employ [mathematical models](#), [theories](#) and [hypotheses](#) related the studied phenomena .

7.2 Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire was designed in three parts, the first part is the covering letter in which research objective is mentioned In addition the covering letter assured sample's individuals that their responses will be confidential. The second part consists of questions related to demographic data such as (gender, age, educational level , job title and years of experience). The third part will include the statements that evaluate the image destination through using the SERVQUAL . Likert scale of five points will be applied that is: strongly agree= 5 , agree = 4, neutral = 3, disagree = 2 and strongly disagree = 1. Two versions of the questionnaire will be handed to the sample. Arabic and English version mainly was handed to those who don't master the English language , While the English version was handed to those who don't master the Arabic language The questionnaire will be distributed in person

7.3 Population and Sampling

The study population consists of all tourists who are visiting Jordan in the period of implementing the survey . Hotel's guests were chosen to provide their views regarding the impact of service quality on guest behaviors. The non-probability convenience sampling was employed as the purpose of the study is to explore the multiple dimensions of service quality in five and four stars hotels in Jordan rather than to generalize the findings to a wider population

7.4 Demographic Analysis

The analysis of the collected data from the responding sample revealed the following results in terms of sample, gender, age, educational level, and type of visit:

Table 1. Sampling Distribution by Demographic Variables

Variable	Option	Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	51	52.0
	Female	47	48.0
Age Group	Less than 25 years	15	15.3
	25 to less than 35 years	35	35.7
	35 to less than 45	24	24.5
	45+ years	24	24.5
Education Level	Secondary or less	53	54.1
	Bachelor degree	38	38.8
	Master Degree	7	7.1
Type of visit	Tourist	37	37.8
	Business	48	49
	Medical	13	13.2

Table (1) indicates that 52% of the sample were males and 48% were females... With respect to sample respondents' age, (15.3%) of the respondents their age is less than 25 years. 35.7% of the sample their age ranged between 25 to less than 35 years, while 24.5% of the sample their age ranged between (35 to less than 45 and 45 + years old.. A majority of the respondents (54.1%) have secondary school, while 38.8% have university degree... With respect to type of visit, 37.8% of the sample have tourist visit. 49% have business visit.

Data Analysis

The following scores were used for assessing sample's responses. Likert scale of five scores was used, so to find the samples level of agreement the following computation was used:

$$5 \div 3 = 1.33$$

$$1 + 1.33 = 2.33 \text{ Low}$$

$$2.34 + 1.33 = 3.67 \text{ Medium}$$

$$3.67 \text{ And more} = \text{High}$$

Table 2. Means and Standard Deviations for Sample Responses regarding reliability dimension

No	Statements	Mean	S. D.	Rank	Degree
1	When hotel promises to do something by a certain time, it does so	3.84	1.042	2	High
2	When you have a problem, hotel shows a sincere interest in solving it	3.90	.947	1	High
3	Hotel performs the service right the first time.	3.54	1.123	4	Medium
4	Hotel provides its service at the time it promises to do so.	3.71	.984	3	High
5	Hotel insists on error free records	3.40	1.199	5	Medium

Reliability dimension was measured by statements (1-5) from sample's perspective. It is clear from table (2) that study sample attitudes regarding reliability means ranged between (3.40 – 3.90). All of which indicate different degree of positive attitudes of the sample towards reliability. Furthermore, statement no.(2) which states” When you have a problem, hotel shows a sincere interest in solving it ” ranked the first, while statement no.(5) which states that” Hotel insists on error free records” ranked the last.

Table 3. Means and Standard Deviations for Sample Responses regarding Responsiveness dimension

No	Statements	Mean	S. D.	Rank	Degree
6	Employees in hotel tell you exactly when services will be performed	3.87	1.012	3	High
7	Employees in hotel give you prompt service	3.89	.951	2	High
8	Employees in hotel are always willing to help you	3.63	1.039	5	Medium
9	Employees in hotel are never too busy to respond to your request	4.03	.968	1	High
10	Employees in hotel provide you with information you need.	3.84	.927	4	High

Responsiveness dimension was measured by statements (6-10) from sample's perspective. It is clear from table (3) that study sample attitudes regarding responsiveness means ranged between (3.63 – 4.03). All of which indicate different degree of positive attitudes of the sample towards responsiveness. Furthermore, statement no.(9) which states” Employees in hotel are never too busy to respond to your request ” ranked the first, while statement no.(8) which states that” Employees in hotel are always willing to help you” ranked the last.

Table 4. Means and Standard Deviations for Sample Responses regarding Assurance dimension

No	Statements	Mean	S. D.	Rank	Degree
11	The behavior of employees in hotel instills confidence in you	1	.913	4.03	High
12	You feel safe with this hotel.	3	.927	3.84	High
13	Employees in hotel consistently courteous with you	2	1.032	3.81	High
14	Employees in hotel have the knowledge to answer your questions	4	1.123	3.54	Medium

Assurance dimension was measured by statements (11-14) from sample's perspective. It is clear from table (4) that study sample attitudes regarding assurance means ranged between (3.54 – 4.03). All of which indicate different degree of positive attitudes of the sample towards assurance. Furthermore, statement no.(1) which states” The behavior of employees in hotel instills confidence in you ” ranked the first, while statement no.(4) which states that” Employees in hotel have the knowledge to answer your questions” ranked the last.

Table 5. Means and Standard Deviations for Sample Responses regarding Empathy dimension

No	Statements	Mean	S. D.	Rank	Degree
15	Hotel gives you individual attention.	1	1.040	3.90	
16	Hotel has operating hours convenient to all its customers	2	1.035	3.80	
17	Hotel has employees who give you personal attention	3	1.075	3.76	
18	The employees of this understand your specific needs	4	1.212	3.64	

Empathy dimension was measured by statements (15-18) from sample's perspective. It is clear from table (5) that study sample attitudes regarding empathy means ranged between (3.64 – 3.90). All of which indicate different degree of positive attitudes of the sample towards empathy. Furthermore, statement no. (15) Which states” Hotel gives you individual attention” ranked the first, while statement no. (18) which states that” The employees of this understand your specific needs” ranked the last.

Table 6. .Means and Standard Deviations for Sample Responses regarding Tangibility

No	Statements	Mean	S. D.	Rank	Degree
19	Hotel has modern looking equipment.	3.88	1.115	1	High
20	Hotel’s physical facilities are visually appealing	3.53	1.159	3	Medium
21	Hotel’s reception desk employees are neat appearing	3.47	1.203	4	Medium
22	Materials associated with the service are visually appealing at hotel	3.65	1.194	2	Medium

Tangibility dimension was measured by statements (19-22) from sample's perspective. It is clear from table (6) that study sample attitudes regarding tangibility means ranged between (3.47 – 3.88). All of which indicate different degree of positive attitudes of the sample towards tangibility. Furthermore, statement no. (19) which states” Hotel has modern looking equipment ” ranked the first, while statement no.(21) which states that” Hotel’s reception desk employees are neat appearing ” ranked the last.

Table 7. Means and Standard Deviations for Sample Responses regarding consumer behavior

No	Statements	Mean	S. D.	Rank	Degree
23	Repeating the visit to the hotel	3.89	1.120	1	High
24	Increase your stay in the hotel	3.55	1.176	4	Medium
25	Recommend the hotel to your friends	3.51	1.220	5	Medium
26	Never switch to other hotel	3.69	1.222	2	High
27	Promote the hotel service	3.64	1.186	3	Medium

Consumer behavior dimension was measured by statements (23-27) from sample's perspective. It is clear from table (7) that study sample attitudes regarding consumer behavior

means ranged between (3.51 – 3.89). All of which indicate different degree of positive attitudes of the sample towards consumer behavior. Furthermore, statement no.(23) which states” Repeating the visit to the hotel” ranked the first, while statement no.(25) which states that” Recommend the hotel to your friends” ranked the last.

8. Hypotheses Testing

Many statistical tests were used to test study hypotheses. The obtained results are as follows;

Ho1: There is no statistically significance impact of service quality on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels in Jordan.

Table 8. Results of first main hypothesis

Dependent Variable	R	R ²	F-Calculate d	DF	Sig	Index. variable
Consumer Behavior	0.984	.969	575.850	5	0.000	Service quality
				92		
				97		

Table (2) indicates the simple regression model which represent the relation between service quality from one hand and consumer behavior from the other hand is significant since F calculated value = 575.850 and Sig. Value is (0.000) . Moreover service quality explains 96.9% of the changes in consumer behavior and represents the impact o f the independent variable (service quality) on the dependent variable. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative one is accepted. This means that there is **statistically significant impact of service quality on consumer behavior.**

Ho1-1: There is no statistically significance impact of reliability on consumer behavior

Table 9. Test results of first sub-hypothesis

Dependent Variable	R	R ²	F-Calculate d	DF	Sig	Indep. Variable	T Calculated	Sig
Consumer behavior	.562	.316	44.259	1	0.000	Reliability	6.653	0.000
				98				
				99				

Table (9) results indicate that (R=0.562), this means that there is a strong relationship[between independent variable (reliability) and dependent variable (consumer behavior).Moreover the tables indicate that (**R²**= 0.316), this means that reliability variable explains(31.6%) variance in consumer behavior .The table also shows that F value is (44.259) at (Sig = 0.000) level, which confirms the regression significant at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Table indicates that (T= 6.653) at (Sig = 0.000) confidence level, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative one is accepted, so **there is statistically significance impact of reliability on consumer behavior.**

Ho1-2: There is no statistically significance impact of responsiveness on consumers behavior in five and four stars hotels

Table 10. Test results of second sub-hypothesis

Dependent Variable	R	R ²	F-Calculated	DF	Sig	Indep. Variable	T Calculated	Sig
Consumer behavior	.596	.355	85.926	1	0.000	Responsiveness	7.275	0.000
				98				
				99				

Table (10) results indicate that (R=0.596), this means that there is a strong relationship between independent variable (responsiveness) and dependent variable (consumer behavior). Moreover the tables indicate that (R²= 0.355), this means that responsiveness variable explains (35.5%) variance in consumer behavior. The table also shows that F value is (85.926) at (Sig = 0.000) level, which confirms the regression significant at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Table indicates that (T= 7.275) at (Sig = 0.000) confidence level, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative one is accepted, so **there is a statistically significance impact of responsiveness on consumer behavior.**

Ho1-3: There is no statistically significance impact of assurance on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels

Table 11. Test results of third sub-hypothesis

Dependent Variable	R	R ²	F-Calculated	DF	Sig	Indep. Variable	T Calculated	Sig
Consumer behavior	.689	.475	86.920	1	0.000	Assurance	9.323	0.000
				98				
				99				

Table (10) results indicate that (R=0.689), this means that there is a strong relationship between independent variable (assurance) and dependent variable (consumer behavior). Moreover the tables indicate that (R²= 0.475), this means that responsiveness variable explains (74.5%) variance in consumer behavior. The table also shows that F value is (86.920) at (Sig = 0.000) level, which confirms the regression significant at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Table indicates that (T= 9.323) at (Sig = 0.000) confidence level, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative one is accepted, so **there is a statistically significance impact of assurance on consumer behavior.**

Ho1-4: There is no statistically significance impact of empathy on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels

Table 12. Test results of fourth sub-hypothesis

Dependent Variable	R	R ²	F-Calculated	DF	Sig	Indep. Variable	T Calculated	Sig
Consumer behavior	.601	.361	54.312	1	0.000	empathy	7.370	0.000
				98				
				99				

Table (12) results indicate that (R=0.601), this means that there is a strong relationship between independent variable (empathy) and dependent variable (consumer behavior). Moreover the tables indicate that (R²= 0.361), this means that empathy variable explains (39.1%) variance in consumer behavior. The table also shows that F value is (54.312) at (Sig = 0.000) level, which confirms the regression significant at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Table indicates that (T= 7.370) at (Sig = 0.000) confidence level, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative one is accepted, so **there is a statistically significance impact of empathy on consumer behavior.**

Ho1-5: There is no statistically significance impact of tangibility on consumer behavior in five and four stars hotels

Table 13. Test results of fifth sub-hypothesis

Dependent Variable	R	R ²	F-Calculated	DF	Sig	Indep. Variable	T Calculated	Sig
Consumer behavior	.984	.968	2905.156	1	0.000	tangibility	53.900	0.000
				98				
				99				

Table (13) results indicate that (R=0.984), this means that there is a strong relationship between independent variable (tangibility) and dependent variable (consumer behavior). Moreover the tables indicate that (R²= 0.968), this means that empathy variable explains (96.8%) variance in consumer behavior. The table also shows that F value is (2905.156) at (Sig = 0.000) level, which confirms the regression significant at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Table indicates that (T= 53.900) at (Sig = 0.000) confidence level, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative one is accepted, so **there is a statistically significance impact of tangibility on consumer behavior.**

9. Results and Discussions

Based on the above mentioned analysis the study concluded the following

1-service quality impacts consume behavior in four stars hotels in Jordan and this results agree with previous studies that handled such topics

2-The fifth dimensions of service quality impact separately consumer behavior in four stars hotels in Jordan

The study recommended the following;

3-Hotels managements have to find the possible and ways to improve in their operation their services quality either by qualified human or by employing advanced technology.

4 -To improve and develop service quality level provided

By hotels to meet consumers expectations through setting a comprehensive and full plan to develop all service aspects

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