ملخص:

Importance of service quality in gaining consumer satisfaction: Case study of Ooredoo mobile operator.

أهمية جودة الخدمة في اكتساب رضا الزبون دراسة حالة متعامل الهاتف النقال أوريدو

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#### Abstract:

The main purpose of the current study is to assess the services quality provided to customers of mobile phone operator in Algeria Ooredoo, and its impact on customer satisfaction. 112 surveys were randomly distributed on mobile users in the province of Ain Temouchent, based on the performance of the five dimensions model (tangibility, reliability, responsiveness, assurance and empathy), however another dimension was added (communication) to complete the study. The result found that there is a clear impact of the service quality on customer satisfaction among all three operators, with difference in the relative importance of each dimension.

**Keywords:** Service quality, Customer satisfaction, Service quality dimensions, model ServPerf, Telecommunications sector.

JELClassificationCodes:M1, M3, N7.

هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم مستوى جودة الخدمات المقدمة من طرف متعامل الهاتف النقال بالجزائر أوريدو و أثرها على رضا الزبائن، وقد خصت الدراسة ولاية عين تموشنت ،حيث تم توزيع 112 استمارة، بالإعتماد على نموذج الأداء بأبعاده الخمسة (الملموسية، الإعتمادية، الإستجابة، الأمان، والتعاطف) مع إضافة بعد سادس هو الإتصال، وقد توصلت الدراسة لوجود تأثير واضح لجودة الخدمة على رضا الزبائن، مع تواجد إختلاف في الأهمية النسبية لكل بعد. كلمات مفتاحية: جودة الخدمة، رضا الزبائن، أبعاد جودة الخدمة، نموذج *ServPerf* ، قطاع الاتصالات. تصنيفات JEL : 110 من 110 من الزبائن، أبعاد جودة الخدمة، نموذج الاتحاك من على مواجع الاتصالات.

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#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In modern business model, the companies have to develop some different strategies to continuity. To gain long term success in business, it's necessary to focus on the customers as first target...Customer's satisfaction has become the first priority to each company, this is why it's required to ensure a high services quality to all the customers. Customer's satisfaction can only be achieved by providing quality services and quality in services (Moeed Sandhu & rehman, 2013, p. 27).

In a competitive market, the success factor for telecommunication companies is more complex; because the service providers are expected to compete on both price and quality of services in order to attend the changing consumers' expectation ( Rajkumar & Rajkumar, p. 39). In short, previous research suggested that service quality is an important indicator of customer satisfaction and service quality is one of the most important research topics on a large scale in services (Gallifa. & Batallé, 2010). The concept of service quality can assist the managers by providing them with general understanding how consumers are likely to evaluate the quality of their business (Adulalem Alhkami & Saleh Alarussi, 2016, p. 118). Due to the increasing number of customers in telecommunication market in Algeria and with the fact that the customer's satisfaction is very important for companies success, the purpose of this study is to examine the relation between six dimensions of service quality (tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, assurance, empathy and communication) and customers' satisfaction in Algerian telecommunication companies. with the mobile phone operator Ooredoo.

#### **2- Literature review:**

#### 2-1- Service Quality :

According to Grönroos (1984) Service quality is the outcome of an evaluation process where the consumer compares his expectations with the service he perceived he has received." In other words, perceived service is measured against expected service (Grönroos, 1984, p. 39) .However, Wyckoff (2001) defined the concept of service quality from the company's perspective. Service quality is the degree of excellence for meeting the customer's requirements, and control over the variability in achieving that excellence. (Wyckoff, 2001) . Or, it is the result of comparing the expectation of service quality and the perception of feelings. That is, the service quality not only includes the evaluation of the service performances, but also includes the process of service.

If the definition of service quality is hard to achieve, the measurement of its actual level is even harder. Besides service quality definitions, there is one that has received wide acceptation but it is also the one creating more discussion regarding its measurement: service quality results from the comparison of both customer expectations and perceptions of the service performance.

Parasuraman et al. (1985) identified 10 quality dimensions and later after a scale refinement (1988), aggregated them into 5 final dimensions. They argued that these dimensions can be adapted to any particular market(CostaVieira, 2016, p. 11), and defined them as:

- Tangibles: measured by four items, is related to physical facilities, equipment and employees' appearance.

- **Reliability**: measured by five items, is related to the ability to perform the promised service dependably and accurately.

- **Responsiveness**: measures by four items, is related to the willingness in helping customers and to provide a prompt service.

- **Assurance**: measured by four items, is related to the knowledge and courtesy of employees and their ability to instill confidence and trust in the customer.

- **Empathy:** measured by five items, is related to the ability to care and to give customers' individualized attention.

#### 2-2- Customer Satisfaction

Vanhamme (2002) defines satisfaction as "a psychological state resulting from a purchase and / or consumption and relative experience". (Jean Van, 2001, p. 62) The relativity of satisfaction is expressed by the fact that it's the fruit of the comparison between the experience (which remains relative from one consumer to another) and a standard of comparison. For Vanhamme (2002), the fact that satisfaction is observable through the consumer's psychological state. (CHAKOR & AMRANI, 2020, p. 84)

The consumer's response to the evaluation of the perceived discrepancy between prior expectations (or some norm of performance) and the actual performance of the product as perceived after its consumption(kruger, 2016, p. 11)

Customer satisfaction has been defined as a positive affective state resulting from the evaluation of all aspects of a firm's working relationship with another firm. (Russo, confente, m.gligor, & Cobell, 2017, p. 667)

Customer satisfaction is extremely important because it is the way of getting feedback from the customers in a way that they can use it to manage and improve their business. Customer satisfaction is the best indicator of how the business looks like in the future. Customer satisfaction helps in doing SWOT analysis that could help them to develop their business in an advance and in a systematic way. Besides this, it will also help in making the right decision to use the appropriate resources while manufacturing the products. Similarly, it maintains the relationship with the existing customers and also creates the possibility to acquire others (BENSEDIRA & BOUHROUD, 2020, p. 118)

Many tools are used to measure the satisfaction as explained below: (Belkacem Bouzida & BOUBAKOUR, 2019, p. 74)

- The analysis of administrative information: such as telephone calls (the rate of calls, waiting times, ..) and statistics taken from the website (The number of visitors, pages visited, ...).

- Claims processing: a high number of complaint, an increase in claims, and the concentration of complaints about a product or places of service are signs of a bad quality that calls for a correction

- **Customer defection rate**: The measure of client attrition is also a useful indicator of dissatisfaction: a high attrition rate or an increase in attrition are signs of a customer satisfaction problem. This indicator is particularly followed in the context of loyalty policies.

- A customer satisfaction barometer: is a permanent or regular measure of customer satisfaction mainly used in the field of services. It can measure satisfaction through the perceived quality and / or quality served.

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- **Periodic surveys and feedback**: Surveys make it possible to identify criteria and define a level of satisfaction for each. If the company's performance is below this level, an improvement plan must be put in place. Surveys and questionnaire are based on service quality through assessing its different dimensions since it is considered as a strong predictor of the satisfaction. (Hilman, 2014, p. 3)

## **3- CASE STUDY:**

The following case of study realized on consumers in Algeria as an emerging country with an Arabic version of the scale.

In order to address the more general objective mentioned above, more specific objectives are defined:

- Evaluate customers' perception of quality, in overall and by quality dimension, of the service provided by mobile phone dealer Ooredoo;
- Evaluate the adequacy of the SERVPERF model proposed by Cronin and Taylor (1992), to evaluate the quality of the service provided by mobile phone dealer Ooredoo.
- To identify which of the dimension of service quality causes the most significant effect towards customer satisfaction by mobile phone dealer Ooredoo.
- To determine the relationship between of service quality and customer satisfaction.

## **3-1 Methodological approach:**

In order to answer about the main question and achieve the aims of this research, a deductive and quantitative method was used by conducting a survey.

A survey is a research tool, which is used to collect information about a particular subject from a sample of respondents by employing a questionnaire (S. Sreejesh, Sanjay Mohapatra, & M. R. Anusree, 2014).

## **3-2-** Hypothesis of the study:

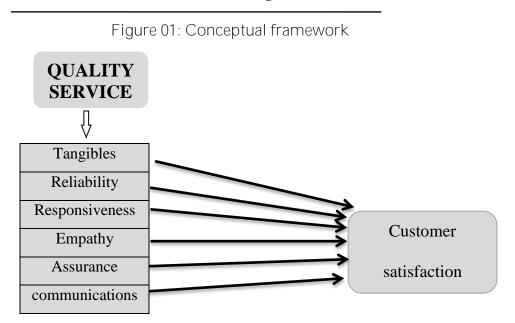
Based on the previous theories, empirical literatures and findings, the following hypotheses about the 6 dimensions services quality and the customer satisfaction were proposed:

- There is a relation between the quality of services provided by mobile operators in Algeria represented by the six dimensions (tangible, reliability, responsiveness, empathy, assurance, communication), and customer satisfaction.
- Each of the six dimensions of quality of service (tangible, reliability, responsiveness, empathy, assurance, communication) affect the customer satisfaction of Ooredoo mobile phone dealer.

## **3.3 Procedure**

The main problem of the study is to determine the level of quality of services provided by mobile operators and the level of satisfaction of their customers, following the model presented in the Figure (01).

As the diagram shows, there are two variables, the first one is represented by the quality of service in its five dimensions in addition to the communication, and the second dependent variable of customer satisfaction.



a- The independent variable: Ooredooservice quality encompasses the six dimensions of quality (tangibility, reliability, responsiveness, assurance, empathy and communication) that impacts on the dependent variable.

b- The dependent variable: That is OoredooCustomer satisfaction.

The study concerns a sample of Ooredoo Customer in the Wilaya of Ain Temouchent. More than 150 questionnaires were administered, from the beginning of March until the end of June 2019. However, only 128 questionnaires were received, among them 112 questionnaires were found to be usable for analysis.

The SERVPERF scale that is introduced by Cronin and Taylor (1992) were used to measure service quality Mobile phone dealer Ooredoo. The items also reduced to 5-Points Likert scale from its 7-Point original scale to be more appropriate for the expected size of the sample which is not very large. Larger scales having seven or nine points may pose a challenge on performing some statistical tests when sample is not very large and hence reducing the reliability of those tests. (Nasser, 2017)

The following statistical methods was used to test data and analyse the hypotheses:

- Cronbach's Alpha coefficient in order to test the reliability of the tool of the study.

- Frequencies and percentages in order to display the sample's characteristics.

- Arithmetic average and standard deviation to determine the directions of the participants' answers.

- The model of simple and multiple linear regressions to test the first main hypothesis and its divergent sub-hypotheses.

Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to determine the internal consistency reliability of the scale used in these studies.

Factors	Number of items	Cronbach's Alpha		
Tangibles	5	0.832		
Reliability	5	0.842		
Responsiveness	3	0.791		
Assurrance	3	0.750		
Empathy	3	0.893		
Communication	3	0.705		
Customer satisfaction	2	0.843		

#### Table 1: Reliability Analysis

Source: SPSS 23 output.

According to (Schuessler, 1971; Nunnally, 1978; Hair, Anderson, Tatham, R., & Black, 1998), the minimum levels recommended was performed. They suggested that an alpha value of 0.7 or greater is acceptable. Table 1 indicated the reliability levels obtained in this study.

### **3.4 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**

Descriptive statistics were used to extract duplicates and percentages:

		1	
Statement	Statement	n	%
Gender	Male	50	44.6
	Female	62	55.4
Total		112	100
	Below 20	12	10.7
	20-40 years	75	67
Age	41-50 years	13	11.6
	Above 51 years	12	10.7
Total		112	100
	Average or less	06	5.4
	secondary	28	25
Educational Status	Collectors	43	38.4
	Postgraduate	35	31.3
Total		112	100
	Employee	69	61.6
	free business	06	5.4
	Student	17	15.2
Occupation	Hero	10	8.9
	retired	10	8.9
Total		112	100

## Table 2: Demographic findings for the participants

Source : SPSS 23 output.

As the above table depicts, the male and female respondents varies in number. The male respondents represent 44.6% and females represent 55.4% of the total respondents who returned the questionnaires.

In addition to the gender demographic distribution of the respondents, it is possible to see their proportion in terms of as their age. According to the previous table, it is clear that the majority of the respondents are of the age ranging between 20 and 40 which represent 67% of the total respondents. Respondents with the age between 41- 50 represent 11.6%. The above table also shows that 12 respondents are within the age Less than twenty years and more than 50 years constituting 10.9 % of the total population. Also, the table shows that 38.4% of the university graduates, while 31.3% represent the postgraduate group, 25% represent the

secondary level, the remaining 5.4% are those with a level of average or less. The percentages varied by profession by recording 61.6% of employees, followed by students by 15.2%, 5.4% for business, 8.9% for unemployed and 8.9% for unemployed.

Through the analysis of the sample answers about the evaluation of the service quality and customer satisfaction toward Ooredoo operator company, the obtained results are showed in the following table:

Tuble 5. Descriptive studietes						
Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation			
Tangibles	112	3.97	0.573			
Reliability	112	3.55	0.872			
Responsiveness	112	3.68	0.785			
Empathy	112	3.74	0.725			
Assurance	112	3.84	0.709			
Communication	112	3.71	0.748			
service quality	112	3.96	0.709			
Customer satisfaction	112	3.74	0.610			

#### **Table 3: Descriptive statistics**

Source : SPSS 23 output.

The table 03 shows the mean scores and standard deviation of service quality dimensions & customer satisfaction. Using the 5 likert scales, the mean value for the Tangibles is 3.97, while Assurance means score is 3.84. the mean of Empathy is 3.74. It indicates that these dimensions are more important for the customer satisfaction. Furthermore, (communication, responsiveness, reliability) are less important.

In terms of total quality, the average score was 3.74, while customer satisfaction recorded a value greater than the total quality of 3.96.

#### **3.5-Test hypotheses:**

One of the objectives of the study was to investigate the impact of service quality dimensions on over all service quality provided in which case multiple regressions will be conducted to see the impact of independent variable (empathy, reliability, tangibility, responsiveness and assurance) on dependent variable (customer satisfaction). Besides, the existence of multicollinearity problem analyzed and interpreted.

#### **3.5.1-** First hypothesis:

- H0: There is a relation between the quality of services provided by mobile operators in Algeria represented by the six dimensions (tangible, reliability, responsiveness, empathy, assurance, communication), and customer satisfaction.
- H1: There is no relation between the quality of services provided by mobile operators in Algeria represented by the six dimensions (tangible, reliability, responsiveness, empathy, assurance, communication), and customer satisfaction.

#### a-Multiple Regressions

Regression tests shown in equation: Y = a + b x, where Y is the dependent variable, as is the Y intercept, that is the value of Y when x = 0, b is the regression coefficient which indicates the amount of change in Y given a unit change in x, and finally x is the value for the independent variable.

Dimensions on The Level of Substaction								
	UnstandardizedCoefficientsBStd.		Standardized Coefficients	Т	Sig.(P- value)			
Model			Beta	Т	Sig.(P-			
		Error			value)			
	0.373	0.294		1.268	0.208			
Tangibles	0.223	0.094	0.180	2.367	0.020			
Reliability	0.012	0.068	0.014	0.173	0.863			
Responsiveness	0.304	0.088	0.336	3.439	0.001			
Empathy	0.053	0.09	-0.054	0.584	0.561			
Assurance	0.143	0.094	0.143	1.518	0.000			
Communication	0.322	0.081	0.340	3.96	0.000			
a abaa oo								

## Table 4: Multiple Regression Analysis and Impact of Each Service Quality Dimensions on The Level of Satisfaction

Source : SPSS 23 output.

A Dependent Variable: Y

the result are as follow :

Y = 0.373 + 0,223 (tangible) + 0,012 (reliability) + 0,304X(responsivennes) + 0,053 (empathy)+ 0,143 (assurance) + 0,322 (Communication).

Model	Sum of	Df	Mean	F	Sig.		
	Squares		Square				
Regression	37.118	6	6.186	34.665	0.000		
Residual	18.739	105	0.178				
Total	55.857	111					

Table 05: Anova(b)

Source : SPSS 23 output.

a Predictors: (Constant), empathy, reliability, tangibility, responsiveness and assurance) b Dependent Variable: Y

Based on the F test obtained 37,118 with the significance of 0,000 that means that by simultaneous variable tangible, empathy, responsiveness, reliability, assurance, communication simultaneously had a positive impact and significant on customer satisfaction.

## **b-** Hypothesis Test

 $\circ$  The influence of tangible on customer satisfaction.

Test carried out result show that variables assurance obtained value significance 0,020 < 0,05, it means variable assurance positive influential and significance to customer satisfaction. The conclusion of the probe is hypotesis 5 proved.

 $\circ$   $\;$  The influence of Reliability on customer satisfaction.

Test carried out results show that variables reliability obtained value significance 0,863>0.05, it means variable reliability influential but not significant impact on customer satisfaction. The conclusion of the probe is hypothesis 2 unproved.

 $\circ$  The influence of responsiveness to customer satisfaction.

Test carried out result show for variables responsiveness obtained value significance 0,001 < 0,05, it means variable responsiveness positive influential and significance to customer satisfaction. The conclusion of the probe is hypotesis 3 proved.

The influence of empathy to customer satisfaction. 0

Test carried out results show for variables empathy obtained value significance 0,561>0.05, it means variable empathy influential but not significant impact on customer satisfaction .The conclusion of the probe is hypothesis 4 unproved.

• The influence of assurance to customer satisfaction.

Test carried out result show for variables assurance obtained value significance 0,000<0,05, it means variable assurance positive influential and significance to customer satisfaction. The conclusion of the probe is hypotesis 5 proved.

The influence of communication to customer satisfaction. 0

Test carried out result show for variables communication obtained value significance 0,000<0,05, it means variable communication positive influential and significance to customer satisfaction. The conclusion of the probe is hypotesis 6 proved.

#### **c-** Coefficient Determination

The coefficients determination used to know variableability independent in clarifying dependent variable. The results of the coefficients determination tangible, empathy, responsiveness, reliability, assurance and communication toward customer satisfaction workshop insurance partner can be seen in the table below this:

Model	R	<b>R</b> Square Adjusted Std. Error of th				
			R Square	Estimate		
1	0,845(a)	0,715	0,699	1,28276		
Source · SPSS 23 output						

**Table 06: Model Summarv** 

A Predictors: (Constant, empathy, reliability, tangibility, responsiveness and assurance).

From the table above obtained value a correlation coefficient (r) by 0,845 show the relation which is very strong between quality services with customer satisfaction, now the magnitude influence (contributions influence) to five variables such against customer satisfaction is worth value coefficients determination namely R2 = 0.715 while the rest of 28.5% influenced by other variables that are not included in this research for example the communication, access, and competent.

#### **3.5.2-Second hypothesis:**

- H0: Each of the six dimensions of quality of service (tangible, reliability, responsiveness, empathy, assurance, communication), affect the customer satisfaction of mobile phone dealer Ooredoo.
- H1: Each of the six dimensions of service quality (tangible, reliability, responsiveness, empathy, assurance, communication), do not affect the customer satisfaction of mobile phone dealer Ooredoo.

Correlation analysis is used to check the strength of the relation among various variables. In this paper, the correlation of service quality dimensions, over all service quality and level of customers" satisfaction will be analyzed. The value of correlation coefficient

Source : SPSS 23 output.

could take values between -1 and 1 which means the coefficient is ranging from being negatively correlated (-1) to uncorrelated (0) and to positively correlated (1). The Pearson correlation result  $r(\rho)$  indicates the magnitude of relations in the following categorization (Dancey & Reidy, 2004):

the relation is weak if the coefficient is between 0.10 and 0.3, moderate when it is between 0.40 and 0.6 and strong when it is between 0.70 and 1.00. When correlation analysis coefficient is equal to 1, Pearson result consider it as perfect correlation.

Table 07. Correlation between Dependent and Independent variables							
	C.S	TAN	REL	RES	EMP	ASS U	COM M
Customer satisfaction	1	0,627**	0,568**	0,716**	0,574**	0,66 3 <sup>**</sup>	0,705
Tangibles	0,627**	1	0,438**	0,577**	0,522**	0,60 1**	0,558
Reliability	0,568**	0,438**	1	0,587**	0,589 <sup>**</sup>	0,56 0 <sup>**</sup>	0,677
Responsivene ss	0,716**	0,577**	0,587**	1	0,738**	0,73 2 <sup>**</sup>	0,597
Empathy	0,574**	0,522**	0,589**	0,738**	1	0,70 7 <sup>**</sup>	0,522
Assurance	0,663**	0,601**	0,560**	0,732**	0,707**	1	0,578
Communicatio n	0,705**	0,558**	0,677**	0,597**	0,522**	0,57 8 <sup>**</sup>	1

Table 07: Correlation between Dependent and Independent Variables

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). N=111.

#### Source: SPSS 23 output.

The Pearson correlation coefficient between the independent variables (tangibility, responsiveness, reliability, empathy and assurance) and between dependent variable (customer satisfaction and perceived value) were more than 0.70, the correlation is strong.

#### Conclusion

The literature on service quality argues that theassessment of service quality should be based on fivefactors namely: tangibility, responsiveness, reliability, assurance and empathy. These factors have potential ofbeing a suitable measuring tool of service quality and consequently customer satisfaction. Through the study a set of results were reached:

The results indicated that the level of these dimensions was also high for all dimensions. Through the general arithmetic averages for all phrases of the six dimensions, the highest value of a dimension recorded is thetangibles with 3.97, and the lowest value of a dimension of reliability 3.55, while the overall quality was a high value of 3.96.

✤ It is noticeable from the results obtained that there is an effect of the independent variable represented in the six dimensions on the dependent variable (customer satisfaction) based on the value of (T) calculated in four dimensions, which is greater than the tabular value at the level of statistical significance (0.05), and the level of significance (Sig = 0.000) is less than the level of its tabular value. In addition to the value (beta) shows that each change in the independent variable (tangible) leads to change with different values for the three dealers or the sector as a whole on the dependent variable (customer satisfaction), where the values ranged from (0.388 to 0.963) units.

This requires acceptance of the first hypothesis as well as the four hypotheses emanating from them for the following dimensions (tangible, responsiveness,assurance,communication).

For correlation analysis, it is found that all the five-dimensions of service quality are positively significantly correlated with customer satisfaction. Therefore, this study confirms the argument that better service quality leads to higher level of customer satisfaction. The results of this study are in line with the results of the previous studies.

#### **Recommandations:**

- ✓ It can be concluded that for customers engagement, telecom companies must provide appealing sales points, wide coverage, neat, comfortable and convenient office locations as well as being responsive to the customers' requests. To attend this end, it must take a set of measures to improve the quality of its services and delivery processes. In addition, to diversifying its services to suit the wishes and aspirations of its customers, it should pay attention and study their expectations, understand their needs, provide a suitable working environment, full control of interactions and communication processes and build lasting relations with them.
- ✓ Training; It is desirable to train its employees in order to deliver prompt service. The management should focus on training employees to improve reliability (performing the promised service both dependably and accurately), responsiveness (willingness to help customers and to provide prompt service) and as well as empathy (provision of caring and individualized attention to customers) service quality dimensions to satisfy customers. It is advisable to train staff in service quality improvement programs.

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