Quantitative ABCD Analysis of Online Shopping

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The central focus of the study is to study ABCD Analysis Framework for Online Shopping and determine the major affecting factor for Online Shopping.

Design: Published scholarly articles were referred to understand the concept. The Focus group interaction method was used to analyze major affecting factors for Online Shopping.

Findings: *Results of the study found that among four factors, Advantages factor impacts more towards its prosperity.*

Originality: The paper contributes in understanding various affecting factors towards online shopping.

Type of Paper: *Empirical Analysis*

Keywords: Online Shopping, Quantitative ABCD Analysis, ABCD Analysis Framework, Key attributes, Determinant issues, Elementary Analysis, Factor Analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION :

E-commerce has contributed to the upliftment of the economy with more access to internet facilities. E-payments have become a more popular method of making any cashless transaction with the increase of disposable income [1]. Moreover, advancement in digitalization has influenced many firms to go for modern methods and employ their resources to optimize their return [2-4]. Therefore, online shopping has become very popular and many customers prefer to shop online. Online Shopping has modernized many businesses by offering their services online and exploring the opportunity to advance their trade [5-7].

Recently many researchers are employing ABCD (Advantages, Benefits, Constraints and Disadvantages) analysis framework which is a well-known method used for analysing a business prospect. The study also highlights in understanding ABCD analysis Framework and is used for analyzing Online Shopping.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON ABCD ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK :

Every firm strives to create a unique business model which helps in revenue generation and customer retention [8-9]. Therefore, a business model is a technique whereby the important elements of the firm's activity are analyzed. ABCD Analysis Framework is propounded by Aithal, *et al.*, (2016). This technique is used to analyze various "business models, company strategy, concept, idea, or business systems" from the stakeholder's view and contributes to revenue generation in long term. In this method, a matrix is drawn and "advantages, benefits, constraints, and disadvantages" are identified against stakeholders' views in the grid and "Critical Constituent Elements" are identified [10]. Many research-based papers are published based on this analysis framework as it considers other strategic methods of analysis such as- "SWOC, Competitive Profile Matrix (CPM) analysis, EFE & IFE Matrices, BCG matrix, Porter's Five Forces Model, and PESTLE Analysis" [11-13].

Many scholars have adopted this analysis for their study. One such research on "Working from Home" found that working from home model is advantageous in contrast with other mode. Thus, this technique of analyzing was well accepted from organisation and workers point of view [14-15].

Furthermore, this analysis framework was used in study "Higher Education Stage Model" and noted that this technique is suitable for analysis [16]. The present study considers "ABCD Analysis Framework" for analysing Online Shopping considering the determinant issues as Merchant, Logistics, Customer, Technology, and Centralized financial Institution. Further, the key attributes and constituent critical element is determined by focus group.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

- (1) To study the aptness of ABCD Analysis Framework to analyze Online Shopping.
- (2) To list the Advantages, Benefits, Constraints, and Disadvantages of Online Shopping.
- (3) To find determinant issues of Online Shopping.
- (4) To identify affecting factors for Online Shopping under each key attribute as per ABCD Analysis Framework.
- (5) To analyze the identified critical constituent element for each online shopping ABCD construct using its elementary analysis technique.
- (6) To appraise the critical constituent elements for online shopping's each ABCD construct.

4. ABCD LISTING OF ONLINE SHOPPING :

Advantages:

- (1) The whole process saves effort and time.
- (2) It gives the convenience of place as one can shop from any place.
- (3) It offers a variety of products and services of many brands.
- (4) It gives a detailed description of each listed product and service.
- (5) Comparison of various products of different brands is possible through a single website or app.
- (6) Many local vendors can market their products globally.
- (7) Physical store setup cost can be reduced as the customers can view the products online.

Benefits:

- (1) There is no push up sales by online mode, thereby, offering freedom for customers to browse products without any pressure to buy.
- (2) The website or app is accessible 24X7, rendering services all the time.
- (3) Customer can track online to know the status of shipment.
- (4) There are many discounts offered, therefore, many customer can get products and services at cheaper rates.
- (5) Logistics companies can earn more by transportation means to deliver goods to customers destination.
- (6) Purchases can be done faster as there is no queue like physical store.

Constraints:

- (1) Shipment delay takes place due to improper management of inventories.
- (2) Physical store experience is not possible in online shopping.
- (3) Frauds can take place due to cyber-attack.
- (4) Genuineness of the product and services cannot be assured.
- (5) Lack of trust as there is no physical dealing.
- (6) Integrity in e-payments is considered to be risky due to phishing activities.

Disadvantages:

- (1) Competition can sometimes degrade the product and service quality.
- (2) Addressing complaints and grievances are slow which creates disappointment among customers.
- (3) Lack of direct interaction especially in high-value goods creates a sense of fear among customers.
- (4) There is a high chance of receiving damaged or wrong products.
- (5) Packaging the products in plastic to protect from damage, harms the environment.
- (6) Personal assistance from the seller is not available.



5. ABCD FRAMEWORK FOR ONLINE SHOPPING :

Below Table 1 shows the list of identified determinant issues by different scholarly articles in various fields of research using ABCD analysis framework.

	Table 1: Determinant issues identified by different authors					
Sl. No	Focus Area	Determinant Issues	Reference Number			
1.	Black Ocean Strategy	Employee, Business, Operational, Organisational, External and Administrative	Aithal, Shailashree & Kumar (2015) ; Aithal & Kumar (2015). [10][17]			
2.	NAAC Accreditation System	Faculty, Social, organisational and student	Aithal, Shailashree & Kumar (2016). [11]			
3.	Private University Analysis	Student, Societal, Governance, Best practices, organisation, faculty, other stakeholders and Innovation	Aithal & Kumar (2015); Muduli & Pattnaik (2019). [16][18]			
4.	National Institutional Ranking System	Research productivity, graduation outcomes, perception, learning and teaching, impact and IPR and outreach & inclusivity	Aithal, Shailashree & Kumar (2016). [12]			
5.	Ideal Software	Transitional, output, operational, maintenance and environment	Aithal & Pai (2016). [19]			
6.	Research Productivity	Academic, students, organisational and other stakeholders	Aithal, Shailashree & Kumar (2016). [20]			
7.	Dye-Doped Polymers	Application, production, customers, material properties, commercialization, providers and society	Aithal, S & Aithal, P.S. (2016). [21]			
8.	Six Thinking Hats	Managerial, Operational, Societal, conceptual, operational and stakeholders	Aithal, Kumar & Shailashree (2016). [22]			
9.	New Research Indices	Researcher, industry, research organisation and funding agency	Aithal, P.S. & Aithal, S. (2017). [23]			
10.	Task Shifting- Professional Healthcare	Alternative acceptors, patients & relative, country, organisational, donor physicians and societal	Aithal, A. & Aithal, P.S. (2017). [24]			
11.	IEDRA Model	Model flexibility, overall model relevance, model schedule, model administration and applicability	Shenoy, V. & Aithal (2017). [25]			
12.	"Wealth at the Base of the Pyramid"	Organisation, Customer, environment, stakeholder, technological, operational and social	Raj & Aithal (2018). [26]			
13.	Online Food Delivery Services	Customer, Supplier, Technology and Food deliverer	Frederick & Bhat (2022). [27]			
14.	Well-being of Care takers	Pschyo education and Jacobson's muscle relaxation therapy	Abdul & Kotian (2022). [28]			
15.	Organic Food Product	Customer, Company, Society, Farmers, Co-operative Society, Suppliers	Sujaya & Aithal (2022). [29]			

Below Table 2 shows contributions by different scholarly articles in various fields of research using ABCD analysis framework

	Table 2: Scholarly contribution by different authors					
S. No	Focus Area	Contribution	Reference Number			



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1	Postcolonial Novels Review	ABCD Listing was used for review of novels. It was observed that this analysis contributed in understanding the novels "displacement, space and identity".	Ambrose & Lourdusamy (2022). [30]
2	Customer Perception towards Furniture	The study contributed in understanding the driver for purchasing the furniture's and different challenges faced such as restricted freedom of movement by shopkeepers, counter crowding, and so on.	Amin & Kumar (2022). [31]
3	Work Engagement of Teachers	Factors affecting the engagement of teachers is analyzed and policies required for effective engagement are discussed.	Santmajor, Carmelita & James (2022). [32]
4	Fashion Industry	The advancement of online portal for fashion industry is discussed in the study and various marketing strategies for improvements are suggested.	Madhura & Panakaje (2022). [33]
5	Digital Forensics	Many companies resort to NIST and CSF to safeguard the information and SSD problems are discussed.	Pallivalappil & Jagadeesha (2022). [34]
6	Agriculture Finance	The study of difficulties of the farmers in raising funds and presented available avenues to increase their financial income for growth for agriculture sector.	Kambali & Panakaje (2022). [35]
7	Transforming Healthcare	The study presented the seven pillars for increasing the efficiency of MSME and SME units engaged in public health care.	Mahesh, Aithal & Sharma (2022). [36]
8	Customization Process	The identifies the success factor of V.K Sofa makers is offering customization to suit customers' requirements and therefore, explains its process involved throughout the agreement of sales.	Amin & Kumar (2022). [37]
9	Furniture Manufactures- Case Study	Through focus group interaction, sustainable strategies adopted by V.K. furniture are explained in the case study and a comparison to other nations is made to understand the competitive advantage of the company.	Amin & Kumar (2022). [38]
10.	Indian Pharmaceutical Industry	The study explains the prospects of pharmaceutical industry and identifies various factors from the view of political, economic, Socio-cultural, legal, global, support industries, society, economy, public health, regulation, competition and so on.	Shenoy & Shailashri (2021). [39]
11	Traffic Flow Prediction	To manage traffics in cities, ITS and TFP should be used employing machine learning to reduce the problems of traffics on roads.	Sathyam & Jagadeesha (2022). [40]
12	Lexical Analysis Tasks	The study presents a hybrid model on multi-core system using an auto password and algorithm.	Vaikunta, Pai, Nethravathi and Aithal (2022). [41]
13	Cryptocurrency Adoption	Factors driving investors for trading in cryptocurrency are identified and strategies required for merchants to stabilize their growth are suggested.	Bhuvana & Aithal (2022). [42]
14	Livestream Marketing	The study highlights the importance of Live stream marketing to enhance the sales of the companies, especially for those firms that have reduced turnover due to pandemic situation.	Rajasekar & Aithal (2022). [43]



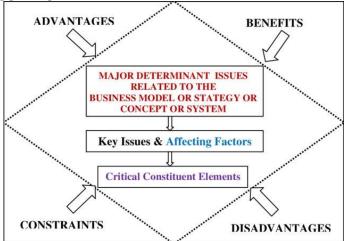
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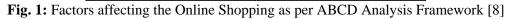
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15	Sustainable	Many financial avenues are listed that help in growth	Mahesh, Aithal
	finance for	of MSME involved in green production and their	& Sharma
	green growth	prospects are highlighted.	(2022). [44]

6. STRUCTURE OF ABCD ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK :

Qualitative data is used to find the various affecting factors for constructs such as "Advantages, Benefits, Constraints, and Disadvantages", and constituent critical elements were determined for Online Shopping [10] [45-46].





7. KEY ATTRIBUTES AFFECTING ONLINE SHOPPING :

Table 3 shows the determinant issues, i.e., the stakeholders affecting online shopping and for each issue, the identified key attributes are presented below:

S. No.	Determinant Issues	Key Attributes	
•	Merchant	Inventory, Competition, Safety	
•	Logistics	Order, Shipment, Communication	
	Customer	Value, Reliability, Attitude	
	Technology (Website/App)	Accessibility, Information, Design	
5. Centralized Financial institute Payment, Privacy, Integrity			

8. FACTOR ANALYSIS OF ONLINE SHOPPING USING ABCD FRAMEWORK :

Online shopping success depends on several factors from the point of view of different determinant issues such as Merchant, Logistics, Customer, Technology, and Centralized Financial Institute. Below table 4 identifies the advantages, benefits, constraints, and disadvantages for the identified determinant issues and key attributes.

	Table 4: Factor Analysis of Online Shopping							
Determinant Issues	Key Attributes	Advantages	Benefits	Constraints	Disadvantages			
	Inventory	New Stock	Meet Anticipated demands	Cost of Obsolescence	Stock-out			
Merchant Issues	Competition	Uniqueness	Trendiness	New Entrants	Cut-throat Effect			
	Safety	Genuine Product	Guarantees	Quality Assurance	Fake Products			
Logistics Issues	Order	Smart Order Allocation	Accuracy	Cancellation	Returns			

	Shipment	Hassle-Free Integration	Timeliness of Delivery	Traffic Delays	Poor Reverse Logistics Operations	
	Communication	Automation	Real Time Tracking	Fragmented	Technical Glitches	
	Value	Good Product Quality	Reasonable Price	Customization	No Bargain	
Customer Issues	Reliability	No Queue	No Pushy Sales	Lack of Personal Touch	Hidden Costs & Shipping Charges	
	Attitude	Favourable Perception	Recommend	Normative Beliefs	Brand Switch	
	Accessibility	Advanced Navigation	User- Friendly	Data Network	Site Breakdown	
Technology Issues	Information	Detailed Description	User- Generated Reviews	Overload	Low Credibility	
	Design	Augmented Reality	Attractive	Frequent Upgradation	Heavy Cost	
Centralized Financial	Payment	Many Modes	Cashless Payment	Phishing	Less e- payments	
institute	Privacy	Secured	Confidential	Cyberattack	Hacking	
Issues	Integrity	Trust	Morale	Lack of Trust	Apathy	
Source: Author						

9. ELEMENTARY ANALYSIS BASED ON CRITICAL CONSTITUENT ELEMENT (CCE):

As per ABCD analysis framework for Online Shopping, the factors affecting under Merchant, Logistics, Customer, Technology, and Centralized Financial Institute issues are identified. The CCEs of these factors are identified under the four constructs - advantages, benefits, constraints, and disadvantages of the ABCD technique and tabulated in tables 5 to 8. Table 5 shows the advantageous factors of online shopping with the identified CCE.

Table 5: Advantageous Factors of Online Shopping and their CCE						
Determinant Issues Key Attributes		Advantageous Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element			
	Inventory	New Stock	EOQ			
Merchant Issues	Competition	Uniqueness	Innovative Products			
	Safety	Genuine Product	Trust			
	Order	Smart Order Allocation	No delay in order			
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Hassle-Free Integration	No delay in delivery			
	Communication	Automation	Informed Customers			
	Value	Good Product Quality	High Returns			
Customer Issues	Reliability	No Queue	Time Saving			
	Attitude	Favourable Perception	Re-purchase			

	Accessibility	Advanced Navigation	Variety		
Technology Issues	Information	Detailed Description	Clarity		
	Design	Augmented Reality	Better Sales		
Centralized Financial institute Issues	Payment	Many Modes	East Transaction		
	Privacy	Secured	Safety		
	Integrity	Trust	Ethics		
Source: Author					

Below Table 6 shows the beneficial factors of online shopping with the identified CCE.

Table 6: Benefit Factors of Online Shopping and their CCE						
Determinant Issues	Key Attributes	Beneficial Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element			
	Inventory	Meet Anticipated demands	Meet Demands			
Merchant Issues	Competition	Trendiness	Fashionable supplies			
	Safety	Guarantees	Less Hazards			
	Order	Accuracy	Quality			
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Timeliness of Delivery	Meet Expectation			
	Communication	Real Time Tracking	Updated			
	Value	Reasonable Price	Economical			
Customer Issues	Reliability	No Pushy Sales	Freedom of Selection			
	Attitude	Recommend	Delightfulness			
	Accessibility	User-Friendly	Convenient			
Technology Issues	Information	User- Generated Reviews	Feedback			
	Design	Attractive	More Surfing			
Centralized	Payment	Cashless Payment	Paperless			
Financial	Privacy	Confidential	Less Data Theft			
institute Issues	Integrity	Morale	Goodwill			
Source: Author						



Table 7: Constraint Factors of Online Shopping and their CCE					
Determinant Issues	Key Attributes	Constraints Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element		
	Inventory	Cost of Obsolescence	Loss of over-stocking		
Merchant Issues	Competition	New Entrants	Strategies		
	Safety	Quality Assurance	Exchange of Products		
	Order	Cancellation	Transit loss		
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Traffic Delays	Delayed Delivery		
	Communication	Fragmented	Misunderstanding		
	Value	Customization	Frequent Changes		
Customer Issues	Reliability	Lack of Personal Touch	Distrustful		
	Attitude	Normative Beliefs	Pessimistic behaviour		
	Accessibility	Data Network	Low Access in Remote Places		
Technology Issues	Information	Overload	Confusion		
	Design	Frequent Upgradation	High Maintenance Cost		
Centralized	Payment	Phishing	Insecure		
Financial	Privacy	Cyberattack	Uncertainity		
institute Issues	Integrity	Lack of Trust	Scepticism		
Source: Author					

Below Table 7 shows the constraints factors of online shopping with the identified CCE.

Below Table 8 shows the disadvantageous factors of online shopping with the identified CCE.

Table 8: Disadvantageous Factors of Online Shopping and their CCE						
Determinant Issues Key Attributes		Disadvantageous Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element			
	Inventory	Stock-out	Brand Switch			
Merchant Issues	Competition	Cut-throat Effect	Quality Compromise			
	Safety	Fake Products	Physical Shopping			
	Order	Returns	Collection Cost			
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Poor Reverse Logistics Operations	High Operating Cost			
	Communication	Technical Glitches	Communication Gap			
Customer Issues	Value	No Bargain	Inflexible			

	Reliability	Hidden Costs & Shipping Charges	Price Increase
	Attitude	Brand Switch	Low Retention
Technology Issues	Accessibility	Site Breakdown	Disappointment
	Information	Low Credibility	Less Orders
	Design	Heavy Cost	Financial Difficulties
Centralized	Payment	Less e-payments	Less Transactions
Financial institute Issues	Privacy	Hacking	Fear of Access
	Integrity	Apathy	Distrust
Source: Author			

10. QUANTITATIVE CCE FOR ONLINE SHOPPING AS PER ABCD ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK :

The CCE for each key attribute for Online Shopping under the determinant issues as per construct of ABCD analysis framework are identified below and depicted in table 9 to 12:

Each CCE is assigned by weights allotted by the focus group. Ranking for different weights are expressed as follows:

- 3 Satisfactory;
- 2 Neutral;
- 1 Not Satisfactory.

Below Table 9 shows the advantageous factors of online shopping and their CCE with the total mean score.

Table 9: A	Advantageous Fac	ctors of Online Sh	opping and thei	r CCE with th	ne total mean s	core
Determinant Issues	Key Attributes	Advantageous Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element	Key Attributes (Total Score)	Determina nt Issues (Total Score)	Total mean score
	Inventory	New Stock	EOQ	30		
Merchant Issues	Competition	Uniqueness	Innovative Products	26	85	
	Safety	Genuine Product	Trust	29		
	Order	Smart Order Allocation	No delay in order	29		
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Hassle-Free Integration	No delay in delivery	29	86	123.7
	Communicati on	Automation	Informed Customers	28		
	Value	Good Product Quality	High Returns	27		
Customer Issues	Reliability	No Queue	Time Saving	28	85	
	Attitude	Favourable Perception	Re-purchase	30		



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Technology Issues	Accessibility	Advanced Navigation	Variety	25		
	Information	Detailed Description	Clarity	28	81	
	Design	Augmented Reality	Better Sales	28		
Centralized Financial institute Issues	Payment	Many Modes	East Transaction	28		
	Privacy	Secured	Safety	24	80	
	Integrity	Trust	Ethics	28		
Source: Author	:					

Below Table 10 shows the beneficial factors of online shopping and their CCE with the total mean score.

Determinan t Issues	Key Attributes	Beneficial Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element	Key Attribute s (Total Score)	Determina nt Issues (Total Score)	Tota mean score
Merchant	Inventory	Meet Anticipated demands	Meet Demands	30		
Issues	Competition	Trendiness	Fashionable supplies	26	84	
	Safety	Guarantees	Less Hazards	28		
	Order	Accuracy	Quality	29		
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Timeliness of Delivery	Meet Expectation	29	86	
100000	Communicat ion	Real Time Tracking	Updated	28		
	Value	Reasonable Price	Economical	23		
Customer Issues	Reliability	No Pushy Sales	Freedom of Selection	27	75	120.7
	Attitude	Recommend	Delightfulnes s	25		
	Accessibility	User-Friendly	Convenient	29		
Technology Issues	Information	User- Generated Reviews	Feedback	28	84	
	Design	Attractive	More Surfing	27		
Centralized Financial institute Issues	Payment	Cashless Payment	Paperless	29		
	Privacy	Confidential	Less Data Theft	27	83	
	Integrity	Morale	Goodwill	27		

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Below Table 11 shows the constraints factors of online shopping and their CCE with the total mean score.

			core			
Determinant Issues	Key Attributes	Constraints Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element	Key Attribute s (Total Score)	Determina nt Issues (Total Score)	Tota meai score
Merchant	Inventory	Cost of Obsolescence	Loss of over- stocking	21		
Issues	Competition	New Entrants	Strategies	20	59	
	Safety	Quality Assurance	Exchange of Products	18		
	Order	Cancellation	Transit loss	21		
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Traffic Delays	Delayed Delivery	21	64	
	Communicatio n	Fragmented	Misundersta nding	22		
	Value	Customization	Frequent Changes	17		
Customer Issues	Reliability	Lack of Personal Touch	Distrustful	19	54	84
	Attitude	Normative Beliefs	Pessimistic behaviour	18		
	Accessibility	Data Network	Low Access in Remote Places	22		
Technology Issues	Information	Overload	Confusion	19	63	
155405	Design	Frequent Upgradation	High Maintenance Cost	22		
Centralized Financial institute Issues	Payment	Phishing	Insecure	18		
	Privacy	Cyberattack	Uncertainty	21	58	
	Integrity	Lack of Trust	Scepticism	19		

Below Table 12 shows the disadvantageous factors of online shopping their CCE with the total mean score.

Table 12:	.	us Factors of Onlin tituent element with	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		nd their criti	cal
Determinant Issues	Key Attributes	Disadvantageo us Factors Affecting Determinant Issues	Critical Constituent Element	Key Attribu tes (Total Score)	Determi nant Issues (Total Score)	Total mean score
	Inventory	Stock-out	Brand Switch	19	57	80.6

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Merchant Issues	Competition	Cut-throat Effect	Quality Compromise	19		
	Safety	Fake Products	Physical Shopping	19		
	Order	Returns	Collection Cost	17		
Logistics Issues	Shipment	Poor Reverse Logistics Operations	High Operating Cost	21	57	
	Communicat ion	Technical Glitches	Communicati on Gap	19		
	Value	No Bargain	Inflexible	18		
Customer Issues	Reliability	Hidden Costs & Shipping Charges	Price Increase	17	52	
	Attitude	Brand Switch	Low Retention	17		
	Accessibility	Site Breakdown	Disappointm ent	20		
Technology Issues	Information	Low Credibility	Less Orders	18	56	
155405	Design	Heavy Cost	Financial Difficulties	18		
Centralized Financial institute Issues	Payment	Less e- payments	Less Transactions	13		
	Privacy	Hacking	Fear of Access	19	51	
	Integrity	Apathy	Distrust	19		

11. GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF AFFECTING FACTORS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING AS PER ABCD ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK :

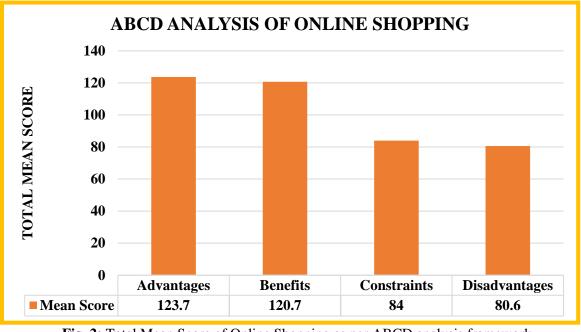


Fig. 2: Total Mean Score of Online Shopping as per ABCD analysis framework

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Figure 2 shows, the mean score of different factors influencing online shopping as ABCD analysis framework, one - Advantageous construct ranks first with the total mean score value of 123.7, indicating satisfactory level. Second- 120.7 is the total mean score of Benefits indicating a neutral impact on online shopping and Third- 84 and 80.6 is the total mean score for constraints and disadvantages respectively indicating not satisfactory factor for online shopping.

12. CONCLUSION :

"ABCD analysis framework" is an inclusive model contributing in analyzing "business models, strategy, concepts or system" from point of view of stakeholders. The present study employed "ABCD analysis framework" to identify and find the most affecting factors for Online Shopping and the results state that Advantageous identified factors impact more on Online Shopping for its success. The study argues that ABCD analysis framework can be used for analyzing "business models, strategy, concepts or system".

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