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# The Impact of External and Internal Negative Feeling on Consumers' Desire for Revenge and Negative Word of Mouth

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#### **Abstract**

Service failure is a common problem that creates feelings of displeasure and dislike among consumers towards the service. Such feelings trigger negative word of mouth (NWOM) and desire to take revenge due to the anger and regret they feel caused by the service failure. However, seldom any research is done on these emotional aspects of service failure in Pakistan related to consumers' motivation. This study therefore has examined the effects of negative emotions on the consumer's desire for revenge and spreading of negative word of mouth by consumer who have had a bad experience using the delivery service of foodpanda. The sample size comprised of 280 participants. SPSS and SmartPLS softwares were used for analysis. PLS SEM was for hypothesis testing. The results highlighted that anger and regret had a positive and significant effect on NWOM. The study further found that anger and regret had no significant effect on the desire for revenge. Similarly, no such relationship was identified between revenge and NWOM. Likewise, there was no significant relationship between revenge and NWOM.

Keywords: negative emotions, anger, regret, revenge and negative word of mouth (NWOM), foodpanda, food delivery service.

**JEL Code**: M30, M31, C12

## 1. Introduction

The service industry is considered as the fastest growing industry in Pakistan. The total share of the service industry in GDP is almost 54%, which is greater than the agricultural sector of Pakistan. With the increased technological advancement this sector aims to flourish and contribute to economic growth. This sector is also the reason for increasing employment and reducing poverty in the country (Ahmed & Ahsan, 2011). Food and restaurant services have also been studied over the years. Past studies focused on the segments of service quality in food service, management of services, marketing of service, etc. (DiPietro, 2017).

The food delivery service market is expanding all over the globe. Restaurant meal is being served to the customers at their doorstep with the revolution of technology.

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Nowadays the competition is increased on the basis of services, which has also attracted large investments (McKinsey, 2011). The road and traffic conditions do not have any direct influence on the delivery services (Correa, 2019). Food delivery services are providing various models which include allowing customers to order from multiple restaurants in single order (Steever, Karwan & Murray, 2019). According to Rathore & Chaudhary (2018), the online delivery service has allowed customers to select their favorite food items and order conveniently. The ease provided by these services has developed the positive perception of ordering food online among the consumers.

The consumer usually buys food online only to relieve oneself from making a home-cooked meal. "No need to cook" is the major reason to order food online (Tomacruz & Flor, 2018). According to Das (2018), the factors which influenced customers to use mobile applications for ordering food are convenience, at your door step delivery process, reward systems and refund policies. Elderly people in long term care (LTC) facilities, can be affected by the delivery services (Lengyel, Zello, Berenbaum, Henry, & Whiting, 2003), therefore such systems should work to provide variety, quality and taste in the food by examining the factors such as surroundings, results and change indicators, etc.

Digital media has provided the platform for the companies to develop good relations with the customers, this helps in increasing customer loyalty and handling of queries (Mehta, Iyer, & Yadav, 2019). Consumer perceptions and behaviors have shown that various factors including; liking, satisfaction, preference, need, taste, quality and delivery can be used for achieving competitive advantage for companies like Zomato, Swiggy and Foodpanda, etc. (Chandrasekhar, Gupta, & Nanda, 2019).

Foodpanda has been working in Pakistan since 2013, and has successfully emerged as one of the best online food delivery portals over the years (Tribune, 2014). Foodpanda has arranged extraordinary fun events and food tours, engaging famous bands and social media V-loggers to develop and sustain loyal fan base (Tribune, 2018). According to Dawn.com (2016) foodpanda has converted the traditional system of ordering food to something which provides consumers to pick and choose from different outlets and food providers like they do in a food court, which has helped it to increase its sales revenue. It has also signed partnerships with various famous national and international food chains to grow its business further.

Online food delivery services have faced challenges regarding price, quality and advertisements, these problems can create issues related to customers' trust and online applications' credibility (Ho, 2018). According to Simphiwe, Anne, Trilby, & Elsamari (2012), service failures can result in generating a desire for direct and indirect revenge in the customers. Customer's reactions towards service failures can have positive and negative impact. Firms can overcome such behaviors by offering compensation or expressing regret (Joireman, Grégoire, Devezer, & Tripp, 2013). According to Bougie, Pieters, & Zeelenberg (2003), various emotions such as anger can create impact on customers' behavior when facing service failures. The relationship status between the

customer and company depicts the retaliation level that can arise after service failures (Grégoire & Fisher, 2006).

The gap in the existing literature regarding customer's behavior towards service failures in Pakistan has opened new horizons to study how negative emotions can affect consumers' desire for revenge and negative word of mouth after experiencing bad services from companies such as foodpanda. Therefore, current study will help in identifying consumer reactions resulting from encountering bad foodpanda service and up to what extent such behaviors can cause damage to foodpanda. With the help of this study foodpanda can develop strategies to cater to the customers who have suffered a bad service, eliminate bad feelings and retain those customers. This way foodpanda can further develop strong loyal customer base. Not only foodpanda but other online service industries can also identify the harm which can be caused by dissatisfied customers through this research and work on it.

Service failure is termed as any incident related to the services, either genuine or seen, amid a customer's encounter with a company (Palmer, Beggs, &Keown-McMullan, 2000). Service failure is a common problem that creates feelings of dislike and displeasure among consumers. Such feelings trigger a negative word of mouth and a feeling of revenge due to anger and regret. Hence, Foodpanda being one of the leading food delivery services in Pakistan is often a victim of a service failure which leads to such unfavorable outcomes. A lot of research has been done in the past regarding food delivery service failures. Mueller, Palmer, Mack, & McMullan (2003) found that 86% of the service failures were because of the service delivery system i.e. highly slow service, long wait, staff blunders, and cooking blunders. However, the element of revenge, negative WOM, regret, and anger are yet to be explored, especially in Pakistani context. Therefore, this research aims at exploring the role, revenge, negative WOM, regret and anger play in opting for food delivery service in the context of Foodpanda.

On the basis of the problem statement the research objectives for this research include; to identify whether consumers face any issues while availing the service from foodpanda, to identify whether consumers actually have desires for revenge and negative WOM after any bad experience, to identify the effect of anger on revenge, to identify the effect of anger on NWOM, to identify the impact of regret on revenge and lastly to evaluate the impact of regret on NWOM.

## 2. Theoretical Underpinning and Hypotheses Development

Anger affects revenge feelings intensely and positively. There are more chances of an aggressive person to take revenge (Ortiz et al., 2017). Yeh (2015), describes that emotional dissonance, which is conflict between feeling and feigning, builds a relation between revenge concept and customer verbal aggression. Funches (2011), recognized three causes of buyer outrage which are broken guarantees, out of line treatment and threatening vibe. He moreover, clarified in detail that buyer anger impacts past choices, repurchase behavior or shows switching behavior among consumers. Additionally, customer response to a position is mostly positive when firm ideological convictions

are competing and buyers stay on one belief system in assertion with the manager's position, driving to less anger and way better brand states of mind (Leak, Woodham, & McNeil, 2015).

Regret usually occurs when people feel that the results they have achieved would have been different if they had made better choices in the past (Zeelenberg & Pieters, 2007). Regret acts as a force to influence customers' future actions. This may result in changing customers' post-purchase behavior, word of mouth and inertia (M'Barek & Gharbi, 2012). In the case of online shopping, many factors can influence customers' regret and dissatisfaction such as poor service quality or bad information quality (Liao et al., 2011; Azemi, Ozuem, & Howell, 2020). Any service failure will make customers disappointed, and such types of customers than regret shopping which ultimately leads to switching (Zeelenberg & Pieters, 1999). Customers who had had any bad experience while availing any service will consider other alternatives next time. This behavior is due to the influence of regret, which allows them to silently prefer other brands instead of complaining or creating any negative word of mouth (Gilal et al., 2018; Zeelenberg & Pieters, 2004). Feelings of disappointment and regret can also reduce consumers' satisfaction (Bui, Krishen, & Bates, 2011; Azemi, Ozuem, & Howell, 2020).

Word of mouth (WOM) is known as a strong driver in shaping of the attitudes of consumers. Herr et al. (1991), while Hennig et al. (2004) defined electronic word of mouth as any negative or positive statement made on the internet by former, actual or potential customers regarding a product or company. Moreover, Litvin, Goldsmith, & Pan (2008) defined electronic word of mouth as an informal form of communication created by the consumers for the consumers regarding the use and features of a product or service and its sellers. Furthermore, negative WOM have a greater impact on consumer's mindset about a product than positive WOM (Pihlaja, Saarijärvi, Spence, & Yrjölä, 2017). Brand loyal customers are more likely to be influenced and committed to positive WOM since it makes them feel comfortable with their brand choice. Similarly, loyal customers are less likely to notice negative WOM about their choice of brand as it moves opposite with their attitudes and beliefs and makes them mentally unstable (Gilal et al. 2018; Laczniak, DeCarlo, & Ramaswami, 2001).

A dissatisfied customer is more likely to spread negative WOM amongst family and friends about the product or service that caused displeased (Azemi et al., 2020; Godes & Mayzlin, 2004). When a customer faces unfavorable incident related to a product or service, they are likelier to complain on social media platforms and blogging sites and hence their negative WOM becomes a threat to the apparent company (Stockman, Van Hoye, & da Motta Veiga, 2020; Azemi et al., 2020; Svari & Erling Olsen, 2012).

Aquino, Tripp, & Bies (2006), characterized vindication in work environment as an exertion embraced by the casualty of hurt to cause harm, damage, distress or discipline the other party for causing the problem. Bechwati & Morrin (2003), extended the definition of revenge desire in terms of consumer perspective as the retaliatory sentiments that customers have for any organization, such as the crave to cause harm to

the firm, more often after a negative bad experience. Bedi & Schat (2017), suggested if you blame a customer it will automatically lead him to take revenge. However, if the employees empathized, the desire for revenge is minimized. On the other hand, Walsh et al. (2019) explored the positive relation between anger and revenge. They examined that consumers with higher corporate understanding and resistance levels show poorer retaliation motives than those with poor corporate understanding and lower resistance rates.

### 2.1. Self Determination Theory

Theory of self-determination (SDT) support this research. SDT was defined by Deci & Ryan (1987) as a choices consumers make on the basis of self-motivation without the influence of psychological needs and external factors. However, Gilal et al. (2019) defined it as consumer motivation through which consumer tend to develop contingencies for their purchases and behavior. To explain the SDT in simpler words it can be said that consumers make choices either to fulfil their intrinsic or extrinsic motivation. Therefore, on the basis of SD's theoretical perspective, in this research consumer's consumer wanting to take revenge is linked with consumer's willingness to spread negative word of mouth.

Moreover, organismic integration theory (OIT), a part of SDT is the only theory as per Gilal et al. (2018) & Gilal et al. (2020a) which has categorized and explained consumer's extrinsic motives into sub types which account for the different reasons for a specific behavior consumer engages in. e.g. in this research this theory will explain consumer's willingness to spread negative word of mouth (i.e. intrinsic regulation) because they feel wronged by the organization, in this case foodpanda (i.e. identified regulation), the consumer wants to overcome the guilt he/she feels because he/she opted for foodpanda in the first place (introjected regulation) because the consumer wants to maintain his/her status (smart buyer) in the eyes of others (external regulation).

## 2.2. Hypothesis Development

Anger is a prison that initiates negative emotions such as the desire for revenge or feelings to harm, these reactions can affect one's ease and comfort (Burdon, 2018). Anger is often seen as the trigger for seeking revenge (Aquino, Tripp, & Bies 2006) by customers. Grégoire, Tripp, & Legoux (2009) explained that revenge has its roots in consumer's anger. Furthermore, the revenge behavior is heightened by consumer's negative emotions they feel arising from their anger (Koo & Ju, 2010; Grégoire et al., 2009). Breitsohl & Garrod (2016) emphasized that among the negative emotions that a consumer feels including anger, disgust and disregard, anger is the emotion that leads to certain behavioral intentions and action in consumers. Therefore, it is hypothesized that:

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a statistically significant and positive effect of Consumer anger on the desire for revenge.

Researchers suggest that anger results in wanting revenge because this act provides a sense of protection and satisfaction among the consumers (Hall, 2013). Grégoire et al. (2009), states that wanting revenge is the consequence of one's anger. Revenge is more self-focused than anger because it allows a person to harm others to get self-restoration (Elshout et al., 2015). Another study, indicates that anger and regret in consumers result in retaliatory behaviors (Bonifield & Cole, 2007; Wen-Hai, Yuan, Liu, & Fang, 2019). Consumers who had to face service failure engaged in spreading more negative word of mouth as a means of revenge due to their heightened sense of regret (Kim, 2016). In the view of above studies following hypothesis have been derived:

H<sub>2</sub>: There is a statistically significant and positive effect of Consumer regret on the desire for revenge.

After any service failure, both anger and regret have a significant effect in triggering retaliatory behaviors in the form of NWOM (Bonifield & Cole, 2007). It has also been studied that those consumers' who possess good corporate understanding will show a positive relation between anger and revenge (Walsh et al., 2019). Mostly displeasure and disappointment result in increasing NWOM in the consumers (Godes & Mayzlin, 2004). Unfavorable services experiences and consumptions often lead towards the generation of negative emotions including anger, frustration, sadness, fear and shame, the outcome of these emotions leads the consumer towards spreading of negative word of mouth (Tronvoll, 2011). Consumers prefer to complain in the form of NWOM on social media platforms after facing any service failure to overcome their anger and regret. The feeling of taking revenge will allow them to stop others to buy from the same company (Svari et al., 2012; Wen-Hai et al. 2019). Considering these past researches following hypothesis was derived:

H<sub>3</sub>: There is a statistically significant and positive effect of Consumer anger on negative WOM

The negative word of mouth is strictly emotion driven (Schoefer & Diamantopoulos, 2008) and that emotion mostly negative in nature including frustration, sadness, fear, anger and regret (Koo & Ju, 2010; Grégoire et al., 2009), further regret triggers engaging in spread of negative word of mouth (Kim, 2016). Consumers who face regret tend to spread more negative word of mouth (Wu & Wang, 2017). Service failure faced by consumers heightens the sense of regret in consumers which triggers them to spread negative word of mouth about the service and the service provider (Kim, 2016). Therefore, it was hypothesized that:

H<sub>4</sub>: There is a statistically significant and positive effect of Consumer regret on negative WOM

Mistreatment or failure of services create a form of aggression among customers and research shows that customers feeling aggression due to mistreatment and service failure often experience negative thoughts (Dallimore et al., 2007) i.e. wanting to harm

the service provider by spreading negative word of mouth. Wen-Hai et al., (2019) found that desire for revenge is intensely related to a consumer's willingness to spread negative word of mouth. Further anger of consumers leads to desire for revenge which in turn result in different vengeful behaviors, one of which is spreading of negative word of mouth (Grégoire et al., 2009; Wen-Hai et al., 2019). Therefore, it was hypothesized that:

 $H_5$ : There is a statistically significant and positive effect of Consumer desire for revenge on negative WOM

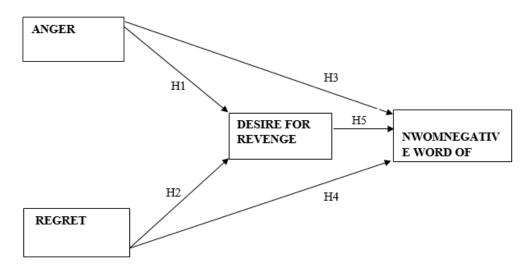


Figure 1 Conceptual framework is adopted from Wen-Hai, Yuan, Liu, & Fang, 2019

#### 3. Research Methods

## 3.1. Procedure & Participants

This study was quantitative in nature and was based on the philosophy of positivism (Newman et al., 1998). The sample size of the research was based on 280 participants. The sampling method used was non probability-purposive sampling method because the data gathered was confined to those who had a bad experience with food panda (Skowronek & Duerr, 2009).

There were two independent variables as anger and regret, one dependent variable; negative word of mouth (NWOM) and one mediation variable; consumer desire for revenge. SmartPLS software was used to analyze the relationship between these variables. While SPSS was used to perform EFA.

#### 3.2. Measurement

For data collection, a survey (questionnaires) was used. The questionnaire consisted of 4 sections based on 4 variables. Variable anger consisted of 6 items which has been

adopted from (Bonifield & Cole, June 2007; Bougie, Pieters, & Zeelenberg, 2003). Regret consisted of 5 items which have been adopted from (Bonifield & Cole, June 2007). While Negative Word of Mouth and Desire for Revenge each consisted of 5 items adopted from (Grégoire, Tripp, & Legoux, November 2009)

For all the variables, Likert scale had been used to collect the data. Likert scale is a scale used to represent people attitude to something, starting from 1 that you strongly disagree (or dislike) to 5 strongly agree (or like). The questionnaire was made on Google forms and the questionnaire was shared on public platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp and, Instagram to reach a wider audience.

## 4. Data analysis

In this study the demographics, descriptive statistics, reliability, discriminant validity, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and CB-SEM tests are used. SPSS software version 21 was used for demographics (frequencies), descriptive statistics and EFA. Whereas, reliability, discriminant validity, correlation and CB-SEM were analyzed using SmartPLS software.

#### 4.1. Results

### 4.1.1. Demographic Profile

The demographic factors of the participants are shown in Table 1. According to the data, 48.2% of the total participants belong to the range of 21-30 years. Participants belonging to the age bracket of 31-40 years are 16.8% of the total respondents. Only 2.1% of data is comprised of those people who are in the age group of 41-50 years. Whereas the remaining 32.9% belong to the group of less than 21.

The qualification criteria are divided into five categories which include intermediate, Graduation, Masters, M.S/M. Phil and others. A total of 112 participants (40%) belong to intermediate, which represents the major portion of the sample. 110 respondents (39.3%) represent the category of graduation. Overall 13.9% of the sample belongs to Masters Category. Similarly, only 5.7% and 1.1% of the respondents are associated with M.S/M.Phil and others category.

Overall data is comprised of 117 male participants, which makes up 41.8% of the total sample. Whereas 163 participants (58.2%) are female. The monthly income criteria are comprised of four categories, in which 84.3% of the total participants belong to the category of 41,000 and above. Which shows the major portion of the sample. 31,000 - 40,000 category involves only 7.5% of the total respondents, which makes it the second-highest category of the sample. The rest of the data belong to the categories of 21,000 - 30,000 and up to 20,000, which is 6.4% and 1.8% of the total data.

The last criterion of the demographic profile of those participants who had any bad experience while using the service of Foodpanda. According to the data all 280 respondents have faced issues while using Foodpanda.

Table 1: Demographic Profile

	Frequency	Percent	
	21-30	135	48.2
	31-40	47	16.8
Age	41-50	6	2.1
	Less than 21	92	32.9
	Total	280	100
	Graduation	110	39.3
	MS/M. Phil	16	5.7
	Masters	39	13.9
Qualification	Other	3	1.1
	Up to Intermediate	112	40
	Total	280	100
	Male	117	41.8
Gender	Female	163	58.2
	Total	280	100
	21,000 – 30,000	18	6.4
	31,000 – 40,000	21	7.5
Monthly Income	41,000 & Above	236	84.3
,	Up to $-20,000$	5	1.8
	Total	280	100
Bad Experience	Yes	280	100

## 4.1.2. Descriptive Statistics

According to the descriptive analysis, the variable Regret (Mean = 4.076, S.D = 0.9399, Variance = 0.883) has shown the lowest skewness (-1.431), and variable Revenge (Mean = 2.038, S.D = 1.0573, Variance = 1.118) has shown the highest skewness (0.986). The kurtosis results for three items is positive while only one item has negative kurtosis. Regret (Mean = 4.076, S.D = 0.9399, Variance = 0.883) has the highest value for kurtosis (1.689), whereas NWOM (Mean = 3.836, S, D = 1.1578, Variance = 1.340) has the lowest value for kurtosis (-0.100). All the variables lie in between  $\pm 2.5$ , it is concluded that the collected data shows a normal tendency and no outliers have been found, therefore further research can be done (Hair et al., 2014).

#### 4.1.3. Reliability Statistics

According to the reliability analysis Revenge has the highest reliability ( $\alpha = 0.957$ , CR=0.966 Mean = 2.038, Variance = 0.002). Anger has given the lowest reliability ( $\alpha = 0.914$ , CR = 0.933, M = 4.120, Variance = 0.057). The output points that the reliability

of all the constructs are in the acceptable range of greater than 0.7, which represents that the data is reliable (Kimberlin & Winterstein, 2008).

## 4.1.4. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

Principal factor analysis together with Varimax rotation was used for the respective constructs. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) for all the constructs is greater than the acceptable value of 0.6 (Hair et al., 2014). The Barley Test of sphericity is found to be significant P<0.05. The AVE of all the constructs is higher than the value of 0.70, which is larger than the acceptable value of 0.05, this demonstrates the convergent validity of all the constructs (Hair et al. 2012).

Table 2: Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

Construct	Original Items	Kaiser-	Bartlett's	Cumulative
		Meyer-Olkin	Test of	factor loading
			Sphericity	%
			(P < 0.05)	
Anger	6	.888	1120.135	70.096
Regret	5	.839	1329.619	81.392
Revenge	5	.895	1523.196	85.226
NWOM	5	.891	1521.602	84.711

## 4.1.5. Convergent Validity

Based on the values of composite reliability ( $\geq 0.70$ ) and AVE values ( $\geq 0.5$ ) for each variable it is safe to say that convergent validity exists in the data used for this research.

Table 3: Convergent Validity

	Cronbach's	rho_A	Composite	AVE	Mean	Std.
	Alpha		Reliability			Dev.
Anger	0.914	0.924	0.933	0.701	4.120	0.8868
NWOM	0.955	0.956	0.965	0.847	3.836	1.1578
Regret	0.943	0.943	0.956	0.814	4.076	0.9399
Revenge	0.957	0.983	0.966	0.851	2.038	1.0573

## 4.1.6. Discriminant Validity

The values in Table 4 show the result for each factor of squares of correlation between the variables and the square root of variance. Discriminate validity is used to analyze that each variable has distinctive and unique identity or not (Hair, 2014). According to Henseler et al. (2015), the square root should be higher than the squares of the correlation of each variable.

Table 4: Discriminant V	a.	lıdıty	
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	Anger	Regret	Revenge	NWOM
Anger	0.84			
Regret	0.50	0.90		
Revenge	0.03	0.02	0.92	
NWOM	0.56	0.58	0.02	0.92

## 4.2. Structural Equation Model

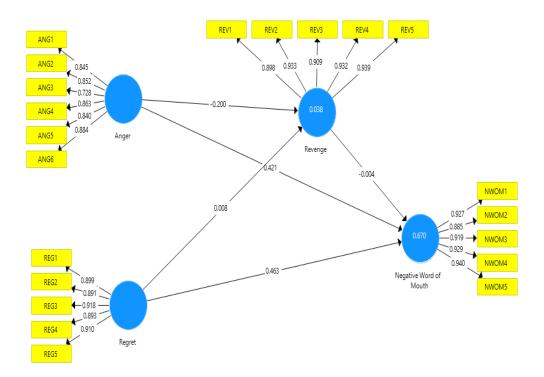


Figure 2: Measurement Model

The above measurement model is tested through SmartPLS and outputs are shown in figure 2. The results of the initial output are used to analyze the outer model measurement factors. According to the results shown in figure 2, all the items measured are above the acceptable value of 0.7 (Hair et al., 2014). This shows that there is a significant contribution of all the items to their respective constructs.

To evaluate the model fitness (Henseler, Hubona, & Ray, 2016), examination of the saturated model and Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR) at a 95% bootstrap quantile is done. This is valid and significant model criterion to analyze PLS

path modeling. The value of SRMR is 0.051, which is far below the threshold of 0.08 (Hu & Bentler, 1999), showing that this model is fit for the study. Path coefficients of the inner model are analyzed to examine the possible linkage between the variables. For this model, the path from anger to NWOM has a strong positive coefficient 0.421 but the path form anger to revenge has the weakest correlation of negative 0.200. Considering the path of regret and NWOM, a strong positive relation of 0.463 is observed whereas in case of regret and revenge a weak relation of 0.008 is given. The path from revenge and NWOM shows a negative correlation of 0.004. These path values are always standardized and vary from -1 to +1. Closest values to 1 indicate strongest paths, and values closest to 0 reflect the weakest path (Garson, 2016). These results also show that anger has a much lower impact on revenge that regret. And in the case of NWOM anger has a slightly lower effect than regret.

In this model, NWOM and revenge are the two endogenous variables, with incoming variables. The value for the R<sup>2</sup> value for the variable NWOM is 0.670, which indicates that 67% of the variance in NWOM is due to the model. Similarly, the value of R<sup>2</sup> for revenge is 0.038, which means that only 3.8% of the variance in revenge is due to the combined effect of anger and regret.

To analyze the significance of the PLS coefficients, the resampling method is used through bootstrapping with the traditional PLS estimation algorithm as shown in Figure 3.

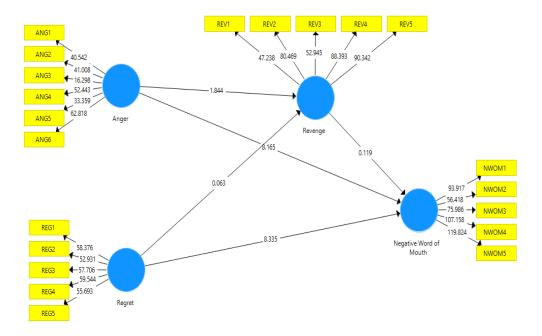


Figure 3: Structural Model

All t-values above the threshold of 1.96 are significant at the 0.05 level (Garson, 2016). According to the output in Table 7, the t value of 1.844 and p-value of 0.066 shows that hypothesis 1 ( $H_1$ ) is rejected. Similarly, hypothesis 2 ( $H_2$ ) is also rejected because of the t value of 0.063 and p value of 0.950. Hypothesis 3 ( $H_3$ ) is accepted because the observed t value is far greater than 1.96 (t = 8.165) and the p-value is at 0.00. The fourth hypothesis of this study H4 is also accepted due to an increased t- value of 8.335 and p-value of 0.00. But again the fifth hypothesis H5 is rejected due to 0.119 t value and 0.905 p-value. Overall two hypotheses ( $H_3$  and  $H_4$ ) are accepted and three hypotheses ( $H_1$ ,  $H_2$ , and  $H_5$ ) are rejected.

The analysis of these results shows that if Anger increases then the desire for revenge decreases whereas NWOM is increased at the same time. This can due to the misinterpretation of the revenge variable. The study indicates that regret is also negatively related to the revenge variable but it also possesses a significant impact on NWOM. No significant relation has been seen between the desire for revenge and Negative word of mouth.

	T Statistics	P Values
Anger -> Negative Word of Mouth	8.165	0.000
Anger -> Revenge	1.844	0.066
Regret -> Negative Word of Mouth	8.335	0.000
Regret -> Revenge	0.063	0.950
Revenge -> Negative Word of Mouth	0.119	0.905

Table 5: T-Statistics and P Values

#### 5. Discussion

This study examined five relationships between the research variables. According to the statistical study, support for the only hypothesis has been found. Below is the discussion is given about the relevance of this study with previously done researches.

The first hypothesis indicates the relationship between consumer anger and their desire for revenge. But this hypothesis was not supported by the results (t < 1.96, p > 0.05). As per this study, consumer anger does not have any significant effect on desire for revenge. Contrary to the results, Tripp & Bies, (2010) suggests that righteous anger has a positive relation with revenge, however, revenge has always been perceived as a response to achieve justice (Sweeney et al., 2020). Doorn (2018), defines anger as to restore any unjust situation whereas revenge means to restore oneself. Another study states that revenge behavior of any consumer can be different because of variations in the cultural background around the globe (Zourrig et al. 2009). If compared to Zourrig et al., (2009), it can be understood that revenge is considered or dealt with differently by people of a different race. Hence it can be assumed that Pakistani society may have perceived revenge as an extremely negative emotion to be used against any service failure, which has resulted in negative results of this study.

The second hypothesis shows the relationship between consumer regret and their desire for revenge. However, this hypothesis was not supported by the results (t < 1.96, p >0.05). Regret does not have any significant effect on the desire for revenge, according to the results of this study. Studies show that once the customer has achieved the emotional level of deception, the customer has a desire for revenge and avoidance, but mostly the customer depends on a desire to avoid it because a desire for revenge entails significant psychological costs (Lee et al., 2013). Good-relationship-quality customers are more likely to ignore the negative behavior than bad-relationship-quality customers, even if they regret the buying decision they are less likely to seek revenge (Grégoire et al., 2009; Sweeney et al., 2020). The desire for revenge is hard to sustain and appears to decline over time. Usually revenge is not the key factor in the eyes of customers to activate grudge or anger. Consumers' desire for conciliation is greater than the desire for revenge. As consumer looks forward to receive an apology or compensation from a brand (Joireman et al., 2013; Voorhees et al., 2017). These studies are relevant to the results of this study that the consumers' regret cannot effect revenge.

The third hypothesis states that the customer anger affects NWOM positively. This hypothesis has been supported by the research outputs (t > 1.96, p < 0.05). Consumers who are angry, frustrated or irritated can spread Negative word of mouth to take revenge on the business (Wetzer, Zeelenberg, & Pieters, 2007). Anger is a catalyst in the relationship between crisis transparency and NWOM (Coombs & Holladay, 2007). Unhappy customers will probably switch the provider because of a service failure, complain and/or cause the spread of NWOM (Sánchez-García & Currás-Pérez, 2011). Consumers who have had a bad experience with an organization are more driven to vent their anger, through WOM soon after the incident than those with positive experiences (Sweeney et al., 2005; Sweeney et al., 2020). With these studies, it has been suggested that anger affects NWOM.

The fourth hypothesis states that consumer regret affects NWOM positively. As per the results, this hypothesis has been accepted (t > 1.96, p < 0.05). If consumer's face regret they are more into spreading negative WOM about their experience. The study done by (Wu & Wang, 2017) presented that those consumers who blame others for their regret tend to spread more NWOM than those who experience self-blame regret. The study conducted by Wen-Hai et al. (2019) on Hunghwa Telecom Company showed a strong and positive relationship between regret and negative WOM. Another study done by (Zeelenberg & Pieters, 2007; Sweeney et al. 2020) explored that disappointed consumers engage themselves in NWOM just to warn others, while consumers who experience regret talk to others to warn them to reinforce social bonds. Consequently, the results of this study are relevant to the literature mentioned above.

With the fifth hypothesis, this study relates consumer desire for revenge and NWOM. However, the results derived from the study have not supported this hypothesis (t < 1.96, p > 0.05). With this study, it resulted that the desire for revenge and negative WOM are not related. The study of (Wen-Hai et al., 2019) showed however, an effective relationship between negative WOM and desire for revenge when they conducted a

study in Huanghwa Telecom Company about their employees' experience. Zeelenberg & Pieters (2007) & Jackson, Choi, & Gelfand, (2019) showed a positive relation, the results reveal that consumers who experience anger engage themselves in negative WOM to take revenge. The above studies support a relationship between the desire for revenge and negative WOM whereas, this study does not support a relation between revenge and negative WOM.

## 6. Implications for Theory

A lot of attention has been paid towards the research of negative word of mouth Wen-Hai et al., 2019; Jackson et al., 2019; Voorhees et al., 2017; Sweeney, 2020), however, this research has explored the Pakistani food delivery market for the phenomenon of spreading negative word of mouth triggered due to consumer's anger, regret and desire to seek out revenge on the party that has mistreated them. Moreover, this research advances by researching the intrinsic and extrinsic motivators for spreading negative word of mouth in the light of self-determination theory (Gilal et al., 2019; Gilal et al., 2020c), in the light of self-determination theory this research suggests that the consumer's intrinsic motivators play a vital role in shaping their desire to seek revenge and spread negative word of mouth about a food delivery service which they consider has mistreated them and harmed them in any way (psychologically, financially, physically).

## 7. Implications for Practice

There can be several implications for the company foodpanda. But according to the results of this study, managers and policymakers must try to develop an effective system for the customers to register their complaints. This may help the company to solve the issues before the customers spread negative word of mouth. It should also be a matter of concern for Foodpanda that what factors are resulting in making customers angry. Therefore, the analysis of such factors (such as late delivery, poor quality or cold food) and solving such issues can help the company in reducing customer's aggression. Moreover, policymakers should focus on regular evaluation (quarterly, half-yearly or yearly) of the restaurants who fail to perform well. Such steps will help the company to get rid of those restaurants who lack skills, standards, and competency.

## 8. Limitations and Future Research Directions

This study has some limitations. First of all, this study considered the negative emotions to identify consumers' desire for revenge and NWOM. However other factors can also play an important role in influencing consumers' decisions. For instance, demographics might play a role in differences in opinions about negative word of mouth, gender differences, males and females may have differing viewpoints (Gilal et al. (2020b), online environmental cues along with the mediating effect of trust and perceived risk can also change consumers' purchase intention (Hsin Chang & Wen Chen, 2008). Similarly, habits can also be effective in altering the behavior of consumers (Limayem et al., 2007). Moreover, moderating effects of gender and age can alos play an important role in shaping consumer's extrinsic motivation. Therefore, further studies on this topic should consider such factors into account.

Secondly, this study is based on a sample of 280 participants, who had any bad experience while using foodpanda. Other companies' users were not involved. Therefore, the results and findings cannot be generalized for the service failure of other companies.

Thirdly the variables chosen for the study such as the desire for revenge were considered as an extreme action against foodpanda in Pakistan. Therefore, the societal understanding of the variables should be identified for the implication of the study.

#### 9. Conclusion

In this study, we have examined the effects of external and internal factors i.e. anger and revenge on the consumer's desire for revenge and regret. It has also investigated the mediating relation of desire for revenge. The results analyzed have shown no such importance of the variable revenge. However, a negative word of mouth (NWOM) has played a crucial role in interpreting that consumers' anger and regret have strong and positive relations with NWOM.

The first variable of this study is anger, which is defined to start by any triggering event which converts usual arouser in anger (Felgoise et al., 2006). In the case of consumer behavior, any service failure can result in precipitating consumer anger (Bougie et al., 2003). Similarly, this study also proves that service failure by any company can result in activating consumer anger, which can be harmful to the companies in many ways. The second variable discussed in this study is the consumer's regret. Marcel, Zeelenberg & Pieters (2004), states that regret arises when people think that the output gained can be different when altering past choices. Regret act as a force to change consumers' future actions (M'Barek & Gharbi, 2012). Our study identifies that regret can result in generating negative actions such as NWOM. These actions can result in reducing the overall company's reputation and customers' trust(Bui et al., 2011). The third variable of this study is revenge, Aquino et al. (2006), states that revenge is any action taken against the party that has caused any harm. Simphiwe et al. (2012) suggest that any service failure can result in indirect or direct revenge by the consumers. But this study identifies that revenge cannot be triggered by anger and regret. This can be due to the misinterpretation of the variable revenge by the respective sample of the research. Moreover, the last variable is a NWOM, is considered as an important factor in expressing consumers' regret and anger. As per the analysis, this has been identified that in Pakistan, online food delivery services such as foodpanda can initiate anger and regret in consumers due to any service failure which can result in NWOM on social media platforms. However, revenge is not considered to be the reason for such outcomes. Therefore, companies should work to manage customers' anger through effective solutions, which can help them in preventing NWOM.

#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION**

Sadia Lateef: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, part of literature, data collection, Interpretation

Javeria Kamran: Part of literature, Conclusion, Recommendations, Data collection

Mustafa Waseem Yousuf Zai: Methodology, Part of literature, Data collection Marium Mateen Khan: Problem statement, Data Analysis, Part of Literature, Discussion

#### DATA AVAILABILTY STATEMENT

The data used in this research is primary data, collected from consumers. The data is available with the researchers.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest

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