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Abstract

The high demand for fuel oil (BBM) in Indonesia, which is dominated by the transportation sector, encourages Shell gas stations to innovate in their services and product quality. Although Shell gas stations are known for their good reputation, fuel quality issues at Pertamina gas stations, such as adulteration, have made many customers switch to Shell. This study shows that customers are increasingly considering fuel quality and customer service in choosing gas stations, and the challenges faced in the Shell Go+ loyalty program are important factors in retaining customers in a competitive market. This study aims to determine and analyze the effect of brand image and customer experience on customer loyalty with customer satisfaction as an intervening variable at Shell gas stations in Jakarta City. The sample in this study were people in Jakarta City who had purchased and used Shell fuel at least 2 times a month. The sampling technique in this study was the accidental sampling technique with 110 respondents. The data analysis method used Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS). The results showed that Brand Image had a positive and significant effect on Customer Loyalty and Customer Satisfaction. Meanwhile, Customer Experience has a positive and significant effect on Customer Loyalty and Customer Satisfaction. Finally, Customer Satisfaction has a significant effect in mediating the relationship between Brand Image and Customer Experience on Customer Loyalty.

Keywords: Brand Image, Customer Experience, Customer Loyalty, Customer Satisfaction

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, around 76% of fuel use is allocated to the transportation sector, which is dominated by vehicles. The increase in vehicle fuel consumption every year has attracted the attention of foreign gasoline manufacturers such as Shell gas stations, Vivo gas stations, Mobil gas stations, and BP gas stations. Competition in the fuel market involves various aspects, including customer service, price, and branch availability to increase consumer satisfaction and interest (Dhita, 2022). Over time, Indonesians have become more aware of the differences in product quality, which encourages them to choose quality fuel for their vehicles (Andri & Arpizal, 2022), so that many have switched to non-subsidized fuel. The fuel oil industry is one of the important sectors in the economy both globally and domestically.

In the fuel industry, Public Fuel Filling Stations (SPBU) play an important role in providing fuel and services to vehicle owners. Customer satisfaction at gas stations is a crucial factor in maintaining and increasing market share for gasoline providers (Zain et al., 2020). This satisfaction is closely related to two main aspects: product quality (gasoline) and service quality at gas stations. Shell gas stations, as one of the leading brands, are known for their commitment to quality products and high service. Therefore, it is important to understand the influence of product quality and service quality on customer satisfaction at Shell gas stations. Shell in Indonesia operates in the upstream and downstream sectors, with activities in the fields of fuel, lubricants, and fuels for various sectors. The increasing need for transportation

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contributes to the use of fuel oil and the increasing consumption of fuel in Indonesia (Sartika & Amar, 2020), making fuel the main source of energy for transportation in this country. The growth in the number of vehicles and people's travel also increases the demand for fuel (Rahmawati, 2019). Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (2020), the growth in the number of motorized vehicles in Indonesia continues to increase, reaching 15 million cars and 115 million motorbikes, which creates a large need for fuel oil (BBM) and is a challenge for service providers such as Shell. With a gas station ratio of 1:40,000 vehicles, service capacity is limited; car users need an average of 28 liters per fill-up, while motorbikes need around 3 liters, so that in three days the total fuel requirement reaches around 485 million liters. The increasing consumption has attracted the attention of gasoline manufacturers such as Shell gas stations, Vivo gas stations, and BP gas stations, which provide choices for customers.

However, the fuel industry in Indonesia is experiencing dynamics, where Pertamina gas stations face fuel quality issues, such as Pertamax adulteration, which causes customer dissatisfaction and drives them to look for more reliable alternatives such as Shell gas stations. Shell's reputation for providing high-quality fuel, good customer service, and attractive loyalty programs further strengthens its brand image in this competitive market. Customer loyalty is key to a company's long-term success in various industries, including the fuel sector. Amidst the tight competition in the gas station market, Shell faces a major challenge in maintaining customer loyalty. To address this, Shell launched the Shell Go+ loyalty program, which is effective in increasing loyalty through reward points and fuel discounts.

The level of vehicle fuel consumption continues to increase every year, attracting the attention of foreign gasoline producers such as Shell gas stations, Vivo gas stations, Mobil gas stations, and BP gas stations. Competition in this fuel producer market involves various aspects, such as customer service, prices offered, and the availability of branches to satisfy and increase the interest of their buyers (Dhita, 2022). In the face of increasingly fierce competition in the gas station market, companies like Shell face a major challenge in maintaining their customer loyalty.

If customers feel that the fuel price at Shell gas stations is more expensive than competitors, they may prefer other gas stations that offer more affordable prices, even though they like Shell's quality. Customers who are dissatisfied with their experience or service at Shell gas stations may not recommend Shell to others, because they feel that the brand does not provide enough added value. This is in line with research conducted by (Akbar, 2024); that brand image has a positive effect on customer loyalty. However, this study is not in line with research conducted by Koyongian & Walean,. (2021), that brand image has a negative effect on customer loyalty.

Customers may feel that there are other gas stations that are more trustworthy in terms of product quality or service, or they may have had a bad experience that affected their perception of the brand. Customers may also doubt the quality of fuel sold by Shell if they have experienced vehicle problems after refueling at a Shell gas station, or they feel that fuel from other gas stations is of better quality. This is in line with research conducted by (Widiyana & Simangunsong, 2021); Ramadhani & Nurhadi. (2022), that brand image has a positive effect on customer loyalty. However, this study is not in line with research conducted by Prastiwi & Rivai, (2022), that brand image has a negative effect on customer loyalty.

Customers may find the facilities at Shell gas stations not clean or well maintained, such as dirty toilets, unorganized parking areas, or lack of cleanliness in the fueling area. Customers may feel that the attendants at Shell gas stations are unfriendly, impolite, or unprofessional in providing service, which can affect their overall experience. This is in line with research conducted by (Agustiono, et. al. 2022); Rizqiyanti et. al. (2024), that Customer Experience has a positive effect on customer loyalty. However, this study is not in line with research conducted by Lina & Prasetyo, (2021), that Customer Experience has a negative effect on customer loyalty.

Customers may feel that the price of fuel at Shell gas stations is too expensive compared to the quality they receive. If they feel that the price of fuel at competing gas stations is cheaper, they may choose to switch to competitors. Customers may be dissatisfied with the overall experience at Shell gas stations, whether it is related to long queues, poor service, or other issues that make them uncomfortable. This is in line with research conducted by (Supertini, et. al.. 2020); Gultom et. al.. (2020), that customer satisfaction has a positive effect on customer loyalty. However, this study is not in line with research conducted by Qomarsyah, et. al.. (2023), that customer satisfaction has a negative effect on customer loyalty.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Customer Experience

Customer Experience is defined by Stocchi et al. (2016) as the entire service process that can be increased or

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decreased through various types of interactions that can occur in the process. According to Thomas (2017), customer experience is an accumulation of feelings and impressions obtained by consumers through interactions with the company, such as buying and consuming the company's products, and obtaining information about the company. According to Schmitt (1999), Customer Experience consists of three dimensions of experience: **Sensory Experience**: This is an attempt to create an experience related to the five senses. Sensory experience provides an experience to customers by affecting their senses. Emotional Experience: Emotions arise from a person's cognitive assessment and psychological processes, often expressed physically and can be accompanied by actions. Emotions serve as a reference in interactions with the individual. Social Experience: Social experience affects the way individuals interact in a social context. Humans are part of a particular community, so it is important to make them feel proud and accepted. Humans as social beings need positive social experiences to improve their ability to interact.

Brand Image

According to Kotler and Keller (2012) Brand Imagery describes the extrinsic properties of the product or service, including the ways in which the brand attempts to meet customers' psychological or social needs. Kotler and Armstrong (2013) put forward the definition of brand image "The set of beliefs held about a particular brand is known as brand image". Which means a set of beliefs about a brand is called brand image. Kotler and Keller (2012) define brand image as "Perception and beliefs held by consumers. As reflected in the associations held in consumers' memory". According to Caputo (2021), Ezeuduji and Mhlongo (2019), Blokdyk (2020), brand image consists of three components, namely: Corporate image is a series of associations that consumers perceive about the company such as popularity, reputation, company network, and consumer credibility. User image is a series of associations perceived by consumers towards users of a particular brand such as consumers or customers of the brand, the lifestyle of consumers or customers of the brand, and the social status of consumers or customers of the brand. Product image is a series of associations perceived by consumers towards products of the brand such as product attributes, price, product benefits, self-esteem when buying the product, and product guarantees.

Customer satisfaction

According to Irawan (2010) Customer satisfaction is a response from the results of customer accumulation or customers in using products or services. Customers will be more satisfied if it is relatively easy, comfortable, and efficient in getting products or services. According to Kotler and Keller (2013) customer satisfaction is a person's feeling of pleasure or disappointment that arises after comparing their perceptions or impressions of performance below expectations, customers are dissatisfied. According to Zeithaml, et al (2018) customer satisfaction is a customer's evaluation of a product or service in terms of whether the product or service has met the customer's needs and expectations.

Customer Loyalty

Customer loyalty is a deeply held commitment to rebuy or repatnorize a preferred product or service consistently in the future, despite situational influences and marketing efforts having the potential to cause switching behavior" Griffin (2012). According to Kotler and Keller (2016) stated that customer loyalty is a customer's commitment to repurchase a product or service despite the influence or marketing from competitors that can cause switching behavior. According to Yang & Peterson (2016), the dimensions of customer loyalty include referral, where loyal customers tend to recommend products to others; retention, which shows the attitude of customers who prefer certain products and reject other offers; and repeat, which reflects the behavior of customers who make repeat purchases of products they trust.

RESEARCH METHODS

This type of research uses quantitative research methods. This research was conducted at the Shell gas station in Jakarta City. This research was conducted in February 2025 - June 2025. The sample in this study was the community in Jakarta City who had purchased and used Shell fuel at least 2 times a month. The sampling technique in this study was the accidental sampling technique with 110 respondents. The data analysis method used Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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Outer Model Evaluation (Measurement Model): Validity and Reliability Testing

Table 1 and Figure 1 present the results of the first PLS-SEM algorithm analysis based on the proposed research model.

Table 1. Measurement Model

	Measurement	Loading	Average Variance	Composite	Cronbach's
Construction	Items	Factor	Extracted (AVE)	Reliability	Alpha
	CM1	0.959	` /	0.983	0.980
	CM2	0.969			
D 11	CM3	0.957			
Brand Image	CM4	0.958	0.909		
	CM5	0.944			
	CM6	0.933			
	CE1	0.717		0.909	0.879
	CE2	0.856	0.626		
Contana Emmaniana	CE3	0.859			
Customer Experience	CE4	0.767			
	CE5	0.796			
	CE6	0.739			
	CL1	0.804	0.660	0.921	0.897
	CL2	0.874			
Customor I ovoltv	CL3	0.872			
Customer Loyalty	CL4	0.740			
	CL5	0.846			
	CL6	0.727			
	CS1	0.866	0.759 0.926	0.926	0.894
Customer	CS2	0.866			
Satisfaction	CS3	0.884		0.027	
	CS4	0.866			

As shown in Table 1, all item factor loading scores and mean extraction variance scores (AVE) were above 0.50 for all constructs, ensuring convergent validity. Research (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). This study's scale is reliable because Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability (CR) for all constructs exceed 0.70 (Fornell and Larcker, 1981). The Fornell-Larcker method tested discriminant validity. Table 4.2 shows discriminant validity results

Table 2. Discriminant validity

	Brand Image	Customer	Customer	Customer
	-	Experience	Loyalty	Satisfaction
Brand Image	0.953			
Customer Experience	0.551	0.791		
Customer Loyalty	0.730	0.649	0.813	
Customer Satisfaction	0.653	0.751	0.707	0.871

Table 2 of the discriminant validity test compares the AVE square root value of a latent variable to its correlation value with other latent variables. Each latent variable's AVE square root value exceeds its correlation value with other latent variables. So it meets discriminant validity.

Bootstrapping

Table 3. presents the results of the bootstrapping test.

Table 3. direct and indirect effects

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	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (O/STDEV)	P Values
		Direc	t Effect		'
Brand Image -> Customer Loyalty	0.445	0.446	0.093	4,764	0.000
Brand Image -> Customer Satisfaction	0.344	0.346	0.084	4.115	0.000
Customer Experience -> Customer Loyalty	0.208	0.210	0.093	2.247	0.025
Customer Experience -> Customer Satisfaction	0.561	0.559	0.083	6,719	0.000
Customer Satisfaction -> Customer Loyalty	0.261	0.259	0.110	2.358	0.019
Indirect Effect					
Brand Image -> Customer Satisfaction -> Customer Loyalty	0.090	0.087	0.040	2.228	0.026
Customer Experience -> Customer Satisfaction -> Customer Loyalty	0.146	0.147	0.070	2,084	0.037

Based on the results in Table 3, the results are:

- 1. Brand Image has a positive effect on Customer Loyalty, with a path coefficient value of 0.445 (original sample), and is significant with a P-Value of 0.000 < 0.05.
- 2. Brand Image has a positive effect on Customer Satisfaction, with a path coefficient value of 0.344 (original sample), and is significant with a P-Value of 0.000 < 0.05.
- 3. Customer Experience has a positive effect on Customer Loyalty, with a path coefficient value of 0.208 (original sample), and is significant with a P-Value of 0.025 < 0.05.
- 4. Customer Experience has a positive effect on Customer Satisfaction, with a path coefficient value of 0.561 (original sample), and is significant with a P-Value of 0.000 < 0.05.
- 5. Customer Satisfaction has a positive effect on Customer Loyalty, with a path coefficient value of 0.261 (original sample), and is significant with a P-Value of 0.019 < 0.05.
- 6. Customer Satisfaction significantly mediates the relationship between Brand Image and Customer Loyalty, with P-Values = 0.026 < 0.05.
- 7. Customer Satisfaction significantly mediates the relationship between Customer Experience and Customer Loyalty, with a P-Value = 0.037 < 0.05.

Table 4. R-Square

10010 1111 20 00010				
	R Square	R Square Adjusted		
Customer Loyalty	0.644	0.634		

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- 6			
	Customer Satisfaction	0.646	0.639

Based on the results in Table 4:

- 1. It is known that the coefficient of determination (r-square) of CL is 0.644. This value can be interpreted that the influence of CM, CE and CS on CL is 64.4%.
- 2. It is known that the coefficient of determination (r-square) of CS is 0.646. This value can be interpreted that the influence of CM and CE on CS is 64.6%.

DISCUSSION

The results of the study show that Shell's brand image has a significant positive effect on customer loyalty, with a path coefficient of 0.445 and P-Values of 0.000, which means that the better Shell's brand image, the higher customer loyalty towards it. A good brand image increases trust and emotional affiliation, and strengthens the perception of value in the eyes of consumers, making it important for Shell to continue investing in effective branding strategies to attract and retain customers. This finding is in line with research by Maulina et al. (2022) and Setiawan & Sukoco (2021), which confirm that a strong brand image significantly increases customer loyalty. Descriptive analysis shows that the majority of respondents have a positive view of Shell's product advantages, reflecting that the company has succeeded in conveying the value of its products. A positive brand image creates identification, trust, and emotional connection, and promises consistent experiences and a good reputation, all of which encourage customers to remain loyal to the Shell brand (Kautsar & Mahir, 2023; Affandi et al., 2023; Wardani et al., 2023).

Brand image has been shown to have a significant positive effect on customer satisfaction at Shell gas stations, with a path coefficient of 0.344 and P-Values of 0.000, indicating that customers who have a positive view of the Shell brand tend to be more satisfied with the products and services they receive. A strong brand image contributes to the formation of positive expectations, which are important for the overall customer experience. Research by Putra & Mahardika (2023) indicates that positive perceptions of brand image increase customer satisfaction through good expectations and pleasant experiences. Yunita (2021) emphasized that a positive brand image plays a key role in strengthening satisfaction, especially in the service sector. By maintaining a positive brand image, Shell can improve the customer experience, ensuring expectations are met or exceeded, potentially creating greater loyalty and attracting new customers. Descriptive analysis shows that many customers feel that Shell fuel meets their needs, reflecting attention to product quality, service, facilities, price, and innovation. Efficient fuel quality and employee friendliness contribute to satisfaction, while clean facilities and fair price perceptions also play an important role. Cultivating a strong and positive brand image is essential to building and maintaining customer loyalty, which is supported by research by Mohammed & Rashid (2018), Sharma (2020), and Coung (2020), which shows the significant influence of brand image on customer satisfaction.

The results of the study show that customer experience has a positive effect on customer loyalty with a path coefficient value of 0.208 and P-Values of 0.025, indicating that a good experience during interaction with a brand encourages customers to remain loyal. Customer experience, which includes all aspects of interaction from purchase to after-sales service, is very important in building long-term relationships. Research by Fitriani et al. (2021) and Wijaya & Astuti (2020) confirms that a consistent and pleasant customer experience across all touchpoints can increase loyalty and encourage brand recommendations. Therefore, companies need to focus on improving customer experience, including service and ease of access to information, to create a satisfying experience. Descriptive analysis shows that the statement "I feel happy using Shell fuel" reflects the importance of customer experience in forming loyalty, where service quality, product satisfaction, and transaction convenience play a major role. The emotional attachment formed through positive experiences not only increases satisfaction but also strengthens customer loyalty, indicating that loyalty is built from meaningful experiences. Thus, designing a good customer experience at Shell gas stations is essential to building long-term loyalty and creating a competitive advantage in the market.

The results of the analysis show that customer experience has a positive and significant effect on customer satisfaction, with a path coefficient of 0.561 and P-Values of 0.000, confirming that positive customer experiences during

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interactions with brands directly increase their level of satisfaction. Ziak (2025) emphasized that good customer experience increases satisfaction, while Hartono & Lestari (2024) showed that good interactions with brands build sustainable satisfaction. Therefore, companies need to plan and manage every aspect of the customer experience well, including training employees to provide friendly and responsive service and creating efficient processes. When the customer experience is designed to meet or exceed expectations, it will increase positive perceptions and affect satisfaction. Hidaya and Nuzil (2023) stated that customer satisfaction is influenced by the quality of products, services, and fuel, where a comfortable atmosphere, speed of service, and friendly staff play an important role. Descriptive analysis shows that the majority of respondents are happy to use Shell fuel, highlighting the importance of communication and service strategies in strengthening brand loyalty. The customer experience at Shell gas stations includes all interactions, including atmosphere and service quality, which significantly shape customer perceptions. Thus, customer experience becomes a key factor in strengthening positive impressions and increasing satisfaction, indicating that satisfying interactions are not only transactional but also emotional, which contributes to customer loyalty (Tjiptono, 2014; Rusmahafi and Wulandari, 2020; Kim and Kim, 2022).

The results of the study show that customer satisfaction has a positive effect on customer loyalty, with a path coefficient of 0.261 and P-Values of 0.019, which means that customers who are satisfied with Shell gas station services tend to remain loyal to the brand. Customer satisfaction is an important indicator that reflects the quality of the relationship between customers and Shell, and companies that are able to maintain high levels of satisfaction, such as Shell, will benefit from greater loyalty. Rahman & Suharto (2022) found that satisfied customers tend to be more loyal and have the potential to become brand advocates, which also applies to Shell customers with positive experiences. Martin et al. (2022) emphasized that satisfaction is a major predictor of loyalty, so Shell needs to be proactive in collecting feedback and making continuous improvements. Focusing on customer satisfaction ensures that they not only return but also recommend the brand to others. Customer loyalty, which is closely related to satisfaction, can be measured through the level of satisfaction felt (Ashari, 2023), and loyal customers are willing to pay more for the value received, and tend to make repeat purchases, which is beneficial for Shell (Violeta and Farida, 2023). Kotler and Keller (2016) noted that retaining existing customers is more profitable than attracting new customers, while Sari and Farida (2024) added that loyal customers who are happy with the product and continue to make repeat purchases are the key to the long-term success of Shell gas stations.

The analysis shows that customer satisfaction significantly mediates the relationship between brand image and customer loyalty, with P-Values of 0.026, meaning that a good brand image not only has a direct effect on loyalty, but also through increased satisfaction. This emphasizes the importance for Shell gas stations to prioritize strategies that build a positive brand image while ensuring that customer experiences meet their expectations. Maulina et al. (2022) noted that a good brand image can increase satisfaction, which ultimately strengthens customer loyalty, so an integrated strategy between brand image and customer satisfaction is essential. Shell gas stations must realize that a strong brand image can increase customer satisfaction, serving as a bridge to loyalty. By creating a positive cycle where a good brand image leads to high satisfaction and, ultimately, greater loyalty, Shell can more effectively retain and grow a loyal customer base in a competitive market. The interaction between brand image, customer satisfaction, and loyalty has been well documented, strengthening the argument that focusing on all three aspects is critical to the long-term success of Shell gas stations.

The results of the analysis show that customer satisfaction significantly mediates the relationship between customer experience and customer loyalty, with P-Values of 0.037, indicating that positive experiences can increase loyalty, but are highly dependent on the level of satisfaction felt. This means that although good experiences drive loyalty, customer satisfaction is a key factor connecting the two. Therefore, focusing on improving customer experience at Shell gas stations will not only increase satisfaction, but is also important for building long-term relationships with customers (Utama, Kosasih, and Trisnawati, 2021). Companies need to create experiences that are not only pleasant but also meet or exceed expectations. Fitriani et al. (2021) and Putra & Mahardika (2023) show that positive experiences must be followed by satisfaction to generate strong loyalty. By increasing customer satisfaction through positive experiences, Shell gas stations can build stronger loyalty. This shows that strategies that focus on customer experience must be reinforced with efforts to increase satisfaction, so that both can collaborate to increase overall loyalty. Customer experience encompasses all interactions and perceptions felt by customers (Sutedjo, 2023; Febrianti, 2023), and when managed well, this experience will create a positive impression that encourages reuse of Shell fuels. Consistent experiences not only increase satisfaction but also strengthen deeper emotional bonds between customers and Shell,

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which ultimately drives loyalty (Rova & Suriadi, 2023; Sulistyaningrum et al., 2022). Therefore, customer satisfaction is an important mediator that allows Shell to develop more effective strategies to create satisfying experiences and ensure long-term loyalty (Sudrajat, 2023).

Suggestion

This study shows that brand image and customer experience have a positive and significant influence on customer loyalty, with customer satisfaction as an intervening variable. The results of the analysis indicate that brand image not only increases customer loyalty but also contributes to their satisfaction. In addition, positive customer experience has been shown to increase loyalty, which also depends on the level of satisfaction felt. Thus, brand image and customer experience are interrelated in building customer loyalty at Shell gas stations in Jakarta City. Based on these findings, it is recommended that Shell gas stations develop a more focused marketing strategy to strengthen brand image, as well as improve customer experience through loyalty programs and employee training. Collecting feedback from customers is also important to identify areas that need improvement, so that customer satisfaction can be improved. By implementing these steps, Shell gas stations can not only maintain customer loyalty, but also increase market share despite fuel price fluctuations. Further research is expected to explore other factors that influence customer loyalty and conduct studies in other major cities in Indonesia.

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