

EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF SERVICE QUALITY ON TOURIST SATISFACTION IN HOTEL INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

This Dissertation is submitted as a partial fulfilment of the degree of

Master of Business Administration

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November 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I offer my sincere gratitude to my research supervisor, Prof. Nagalingam Nagendrakumar, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Sri Lanka under whose guidance and support this research was conducted. I must thank him for the valuable and continuous assistance and encouragement provided throughout the research duration. Without his support, this effort would have never become a reality.

I offer my special thanks to the management and the staff of Asia Leisure hotels for the help given me to conduct this study.

Also, I would like to thank Prof. Ruwan Jayathilake & lecture panel at SLIIT for their support and effort given throughout my MBA.

Last but not least, I would like to convey my gratitude to my family and friends who were always behind me giving me the required support whenever in need.

ABSTRACT

The service quality is most important factor in any service-related business. The hotels have big

role to play in service quality aspect to meet the customer requirements. Therefore, the hoteliers

should find ways to provide excellent and quality services and other facilities to their customers

and stand out among the rivals. Service quality creates direct impacts on the guest return

behaviour and company profit in the long run. In recent years, the hotel industry in Sri Lanka

has become highly competitive and challenging. Most of the hotels getting customer complaints

due to not providing quality services to their customers. The purpose of the study was to

investigate the impact of service quality on tourist satisfaction in the hotel industry in Sri Lanka

with reference to Asia Leisure hotels. The SERVQUAL model has been applied to detect the

quality improvement areas and tourist satisfaction based on five dimensions such as tangibility,

reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy. This research adopted a quantitative

approach and as the study mainly focused on testing the hypotheses, the deductive research

approach was applied. Data were collected from 376 respondents which consisted of 34 five-

point Likert scale questions, using a stratified random sampling technique. The collected data

were analyzed by using SPSS version 26. The impact of the service quality on tourist

satisfaction has been studied by applying the Pearson correlation coefficient and regression

analysis. The findings revealed that the service quality dimensions have different aspect in

influencing tourist satisfaction. Assurance illustrates strongest impact on tourist satisfaction

with having the highest beta coefficient value, followed by empathy, tangibility, reliability and

responsiveness. This study will help managers of Sri Lankan hotels to identify the service

quality areas that need to be improved and assist in related decision making to enhance tourist

satisfaction.

Keywords: Service quality, Tourist satisfaction, Hotel Industry

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AL - Asia Leisure

ANOVA - Analysis of Variance

COVID - Corona Virus Disease

GCC - Guest comment cards

KMO - Kaiser Meyer Olin Measure

SERVQUAL - Service Quality

SLTDA - Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

SPSS - Statistical Package for Social Science