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Problems and Strategies in Services Marketing

This article compares problems and strategies cited in the services marketing literature with those reported by actual service suppliers in a study conducted by the authors. Discussion centers on several broad themes that emerge from this comparison and on guidelines for future work in services marketing.

THREE basic assumptions pervade the growing body of literature on services marketing. The first holds that a number of unique characteristics—notably intangibility, inseparability of production and consumption, heterogeneity, and perishability—separate services from tangible goods. The second assumption maintains that these characteristics pose vexing problems for services marketers that are not faced by goods marketers. The third and final assumption holds that services marketing problems require services marketing solutions—that strategies developed from experience in goods marketing are often insufficient.

The purposes of this article are: (1) to offer a conceptual framework summarizing the unique characteristics of services, the problems stemming from these characteristics, and the strategies suggested as appropriate to overcome the problems; (2) to report the findings of a national survey of managers of service firms concerning the problems they face and the marketing strategies they use to overcome them; (3) to

compare the problems and strategies cited in the literature with those reported by managers of services firms; and (4) to offer recommendations for the development of services marketing thought.

Literature on Services Marketing

The rationale for a separate treatment of services marketing centers on the existence of a number of characteristics of services which are consistently cited in the literature: intangibility, inseparability of production and consumption, heterogeneity, and perishability. Figure 1 presents a summary of the references documenting these differences.

The fundamental difference universally cited by authors (e.g., Bateson 1977; Berry 1980; Lovelock 1981; Rathmell 1966, 1974; Shostack 1977a) is *intangibility*. Because services are performances, rather than objects, they cannot be seen, felt, tasted, or touched in the same manner in which goods can be sensed. Intangibility, according to Bateson (1979) is the critical goods-services distinction from which all other differences emerge.

Inseparability of production and consumption involves the simultaneous production and consumption which characterizes most services. Whereas goods are first produced, then sold and then consumed, services are first sold, then produced and consumed simulta-

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Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman

RD Boyd



Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman:

This book delves into Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman. Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman is a vital topic that must be grasped by everyone, from students and scholars to the general public. The book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

1. The book is structured into several chapters, namely:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction to Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman
 - Chapter 2: Essential Elements of Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman
 - Chapter 3: Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman in Everyday Life
 - Chapter 4: Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman in Specific Contexts
 - Chapter 5: Conclusion
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- The book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. It is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of Problems Strategies In Services Marketing Parasuraman.

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