

Young consumer awareness of halal food in Indonesia

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Abstract. The future of the halal product industry in Indonesia is determined by Indonesian consumers' demand. Young consumers have a significant role in the development of halal products because 25 percent of consumers in Indonesia are young consumers. Therefore, this research focused on the awareness of young Indonesian consumers to halal products. The purpose of this study was to analyse the factors affecting the awareness of young Indonesian consumers. The data used were cross-section data collected from young consumers of halal products for the 17-25 age group by using 157 respondents. Convenience sampling was used to determine the interview sample. Data were analysed using the Structural Equation Model method. The results show that the young consumer awareness of halal food in Indonesia was high. The factors affecting young consumer awareness were health and religion knowledge.

1 Introduction

Manufacture of Indonesian food gives high attention to halal food products. Halal product is a product that can provide a guarantee the quality, safety, and hygiene of products to the consumers [1]. For a Muslim, eating halal food is an obligation which is prescribed by religion [2]. By thus, the consumption of halal products becomes a picture of faith and devotion level to follow the commands of God. Consumer understanding of halal products is influenced by individuals, social environment, and other factors such as food health assurance and food quality [3]. Halal product request in the countries dominated by muslim is automatically getting higher compared with countries other. However, growth in the consumption of halal products in other countries is relatively increasing [4]. Statistics proves that the demand for halal products and services is increasing and fast [5]

Indonesia, as one of the largest Muslim countries, has a potential market in developing halal products. Demographic condition of Indonesia reveals that as much as 25 percent of the people of Indonesia in domination by the young or the generation of millennials. The high proportion of young consumers indicates that the halal product in Indonesia is determined by younger consumers, meaning that youth will become halal consumers in the present and the future ahead. Therefore, the role of young consumers is relatively high in

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developing halal products in Indonesia. Understanding, knowledge, and awareness of young consumers of halal products are the indicators of the sustainability of halal product development in Indonesia.

Awareness of young consumers of halal products is a human perception and response to the conditions of products eaten, drunk, and used [6]. Consumer awareness is the first step in the buying process — consumers who initially do not know about the finished product will make a purchase mindlessly [7]. Based on the background, the research aimed to identify factors affecting the awareness level of young muslim consumers in Indonesia.

2 Materials and methods

This study used a questionnaire to collect research data. In general, the questionnaire was formed by considering variables affecting the level of young consumers awareness of halal products. Overall questions represented the variables compiled by literature review. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part explained the demographic conditions of the respondents. The second part was a question describing the growing level of consumer awareness of halal products, religion knowledge, religious belief, and health reason. The type of data used in this study was ordinal data. Questions of questionnaire were measured using a scale Likert (1: strongly disagree up to 7: strongly agree). Respondents were selected based on accidental sampling. Accidental sampling was one of the techniques of non-probability sampling, where respondents selected were subjective, in order to represent the population. The total respondents from this study were 157 respondents.

Data on 157 respondents were analyzed using the Partial Least Square-Structural Equation Model (PLS-SEM). PLS-SEM is one of the techniques of explanatory variables [8]. PLS-SEM is also a technique of regression used to analyze the abstract variables (not afford rating directly), so that the latent variables can be explained. The latent variables of this research were young consumer awareness, religion belief, religions knowledge, and health reason. (Fig. 1.)

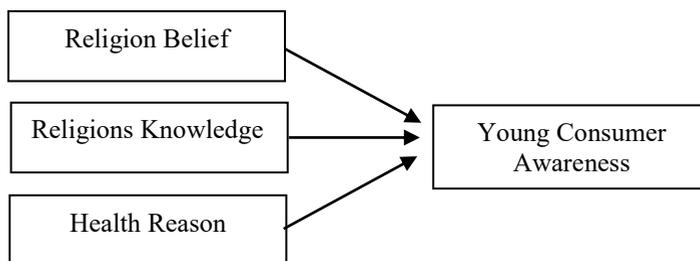


Fig. 1. Conceptual Framework

3 Result and discussion

3.1 Demographic analysis

Table 1 shows the profile of the 157 respondents who were interviewed. A total of 73 (46%) respondents were male and 84 (54%) of them were female. Most of the respondents had a bachelor degree, namely of 81%.

Table 1. Demographic profile of respondent (n=157)

Demographic Variables	Details	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	73	46
	Female	84	54
Education	Senior High School	4	3
	Diploma-1	11	7
	Diploma-3	13	8
	Bachelor	127	81
	Master	2	1

3.2 Partial least square analysis

3.2.1 Outer model evaluation

The outer model evaluation aimed to measure how much the manifest variable could explain latent variables. If the value of the manifest variable was smaller than 0.5, then the manifest variables had to drop out of the model early [9,10]. The initial model in this study consisted of 10 religious belief manifest variables, 5 health reason manifest variables, 7 religious knowledge manifest variables, and 9 young consumer awareness manifest variables. These manifest variables were the variables describing latent variables (Fig. 2).

Average Variance Extracted (AVE) was used to see the validity of the model that had been formed. Rated AVE should be more substantial than 0.5, so that the overall variables existing in questionnaire can be said valid. Subsequently, the value of Composite Reliability was analyzed to measure how the reliability of the model was formed. The composite reliability value should be greater than 0.6 which showed reliability to answer the question of research.

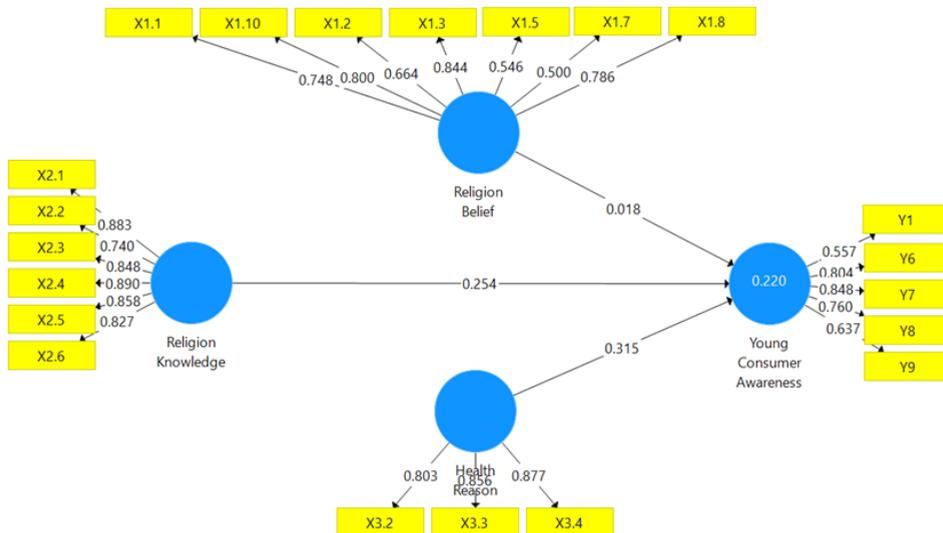


Fig. 2. Loading Factor Result and PLS Final Model

Table 2. Average variance extracted and composite reliability

Variables	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Young Consumer Awareness	0.848	0.532
Religion Knowledge	0.936	0.709
Religion Belief	0.873	0.503
Health Reason	0.883	0.715

3. 2. 2 Inner model evaluation

The inner model of evaluation was an analysis used to look at the suitability of the formed model. Results of inner models showed value of 0.205. This value illustrates that the model formed was appropriate, which included the good of fit moderate modelling.

3. 2. 3 Hypothesis testing

This study aimed to look at the factors influencing young consumers' awareness of halal products. From the literature review, it was obtained that three variables influenced the awareness of young consumers towards halal products, namely religious belief, religious knowledge, and health reason. In statistical research, it could be proven that the religious knowledge and health reason influenced significantly, while religion belief did not affect it significantly with the significance value of 0.05. The results of hypothesis testing are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Hypothesis result testing

Variable	Coefficient	p-value	Conclusion
Religion Belief	0.018	0.870	Not Significant
Religion Knowledge	0.254	0.015	Significant
Health Reason	0.315	0.000	Significant

The results of the hypothesis test show that religious knowledge and health reason had a positive influence on the awareness of young consumers on halal products. Research was managed to prove its influence positively. Where the results of the study earlier showed that knowledge of religion is one of the elements that are important in influencing the awareness of consumers young to products halal [11]. Consumer knowledge can shape the perception of young consumers of halal products [12].

Not only knowledge, health reason was also a factor affecting the awareness of young consumers of halal products. Product halal provides a guarantee of the quality and cleanliness of the consumed food. Consumers presume that the health of the consumed products is essential in determining the health of consumers [13,14]. The bad quality of food will provide contrary side effects toward consumers. Every product that has passed the halal certification can be considered as clean food, so that it can be concluded that halal products are strictly related to the cleanliness, safety, and high quality of the product [6].

4 Conclusion

It can be concluded that the awareness level of young consumers to halal products was influenced by two factors, namely religion knowledge and health factors. The second factor could give positive effect for the consumers. This illustrates that the halal certification of

products was important for the consumers. The confidence of consumers in terms of religion as well as the aspect of health would open up the opportunities for halal products market. Therefore, the halal products were consumed by not only young muslim consumers, but also the various types of consumers.

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