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# Assessing challenges to mobile wallet usage in India: An interpretive structural modeling approach

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**Abstract.** India is paving its way towards a cashless society, from physical wallets to virtual (mobile) wallets. Mobile wallets are a fast growing payment method but in developing countries, like India, consumers are still using cash in their daily transactions. This paper identifies and evaluates key challenges to mobile wallet usage in India. Eleven possible challenges to mobile wallets are identified through extensive review and validated from experts' inputs. Further, the Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM) technique is utilized for constructing a structural framework of the identified challenges. Classification of these challenges has been done using MICMAC analysis. "Lack of adequate infrastructure (Ch4)", "Poor Internet penetration (Ch5)", "Highly fragmented economy (Ch9)" and "Lack of goal oriented and clearly defined mobile wallet strategy (Ch11)" have been found to be four key challenges that inhibit mobile wallet usage in India. This paper may help policymakers, regulatory bodies and banking managers in achieving effective mobile wallet usage in India.

**Keywords:** Challenges, Mobile wallet usage, Interpretive structural modeling, MICMAC analysis, India

## 1 Introduction

Smartphone and electronic commerce are an integral part of the modern customer nowadays. Increased use of technology and online shopping has forced the customer to adopt or shift from cash payments to e-wallet or digital wallets for the payment mode for services availed through e-commerce web portals or mobile applications [1]. In a developing country like India, the mobile wallet is becoming popular. There are many reasons behind it. For example, the Indian government is focusing on the cashless initiative and Indian banking sector is taking several initiatives in this direction. The consumers know that going cashless is more secure [2, 3]. They know there are various advantages for use of mobile wallets including security [4].

As per recent data, it is predicted that in India, the mobile wallet market will grow to \$184 billion by 2024. Consumers are also aware about benefits of cashless economy. Net penetration of Internet is increasing very fast in India as compared to other countries. As per GlobalData (leading data and analytics company), India is one of the top markets in mobile payment adoption and surpasses the US, the UK, China and Denmark. There is no doubt that mobile wallets are a fast-growing payment method but in developing countries, consumers are still using cash in their daily transactions [5]. As per deloitte.com research, in India, although about 10% of accounting transaction volume is through this technology, the consumers are still less aware about mobile wallets and are doing relatively less transactions using it. There are several challenges for mobile wallet use in India and therefore it is important to comprehend the structural framework to overcome these challenges effectively. Realising this, the current research has the following objectives:

1. To systematically identify challenges to mobile wallet in India.
2. To develop a structural framework to overcome these challenges effectively.

This paper aims to recognize and investigate challenges to mobile wallet use in India. An integrated Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM) and MICMAC methodology is used to develop a structural framework of these challenges. The paper is organized as follows: We review the literature in Section 2, methodology in Section 3, data collection and results in Section 4, findings along with study implications in Section 5 and conclusions with the limitations and future scope of research are provided in Section 6.

## 2 Literature Review

The presence of challenges offers a retarding effect, thereby decelerating the development of continuous improvement. Thus, it is crucial to understand key challenges to mobile wallet use in India. In order to identify the challenges, prior literature was explored. Various keywords such as “Key Challenges/Hurdles/Hindrances/Inhibitors + Mobile wallet usage or mobile wallet usage in India” were searched on Google and Google Scholar. 11 key challenges to mobile wallets usage in India were identified from a detailed review and are presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1.** Challenges to Mobile Wallet in India

SN	Challenges	Brief Description	References
1	Risk of security breaches and fraud (Ch1)	Risks of online fraud, leakage of confidential information, cyber-crimes and virus attacks etc. have been rising. This is a big concern to deal with, in order to popularize mobile wallet usage.	[6, 7]
2	Privacy concerns (Ch2)	This challenge is related to the privacy concern of consumers about mobile wallet.	[8, 9]
3	Low trust in mobile wallets (Ch3)	In a developing country like India, the consumers are showing less trust of mobile wallets as compared to cash	[10, 11, 12]
4	Lack of adequate infrastructure (Ch4)	The lack of adequate infrastructure is a major challenge in India because of this challenge, consumers still use cash.	[13, 14, 15]
5	Poor Internet penetration (Ch5)	No doubt, India is growing very fast but as compared to country population, internet	[16, 17]

		penetration is low, this is also a main challenge	
6	Perception of customers regarding the value of using mobile wallets (Ch6)	For any initiative, customer awareness and perception play an important role but still in India perception of customers are not strong regarding use of mobile wallet. Most of the customers feel comfortable without mobile wallet and feel that there is not much value to use.	[18, 19, 20]
7	Low digital literacy (Ch7)	Digital literacy is just 10% in India. People in rural areas (more than 50% of the country population) still don't know about using and applications of smart phone in the context of electronic money.	[21, 22, 23]
8	Language issues (Ch8)	The message received on mobiles regarding transactions is in English, which is problematic for people who have trouble communicating in English language.	[24, 25]
9	Highly fragmented economy (Ch9)	Digital payments have reached out to only 10% of Indian users so far. In fact, while India has over 30 million retail outlets, only one million of them possess the required wherewithal for digital payments. There is no doubt that India is a growing economy and there is huge potential for digital payments. But still not growing as per predicted for instance as per Google and KGMP report, 68% of Indian SMEs have remained completely offline.	[9, 12, 26]
10	Psychological factors (Ch10)	This challenge is related to the consumer's perceptions about mobile wallet. They feel more comfortable using cash in their transactions.	[10, 27]
11	Lack of goal oriented and clearly defined mobile wallet strategy (Ch11)	Mobile wallet companies must develop a goal-oriented and clearly defined strategy but, most service providers have failed to develop proper strategies to grab the market.	[28, 29]

### 3 Literature Analysis

An integrated ISM-MICMAC methodology is used in this study. Warfield first proposed the ISM in 1974. ISM helps in the modeling of the variables by allowing development of interrelationships between them [30]. ISM uses practical awareness and practices of decisions makers to construct a logical hierarchical based modeling of the variables based on the driving and depending power this can done by using cross-impact matrix multiplication applied to classification, known as MICMAC analysis, which helps in developing the binary type of relationships among the considered variables [31]. In this work, ISM-MICMAC methodology is applied through different steps as below [32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41]:

- i. Distinguish the variables associated with the research problem. In this research, we selected key challenges regarding the inhibition of mobile wallet usage in India.
- ii. Construct Structural Self-Interaction Matrix (SSIM) to assess contextual relationships of selected mobile wallet usage related challenges.



The initial reachability matrix (RMi) is developed from SSIM. The RMi consists of binary numbers (0 and 1) and formed using several rules [20], given as:

If SSIM contains V in the SSIM, then RMi should replace with entry 1 for (i, j) and 0 for (j, i);

If SSIM contains A in the SSIM, then RMi should replace with entry 0 for (i, j) and 1 for (j, i);

If SSIM contains X in the SSIM, then RMi should replace with entry 1 for both (i, j) and (j, i);

If SSIM contains O in the SSIM, then RMi should replace with entry 0 for both (i, j) and (j, i).

Then, the final reachability matrix (RMf) was developed from the RMi using transitivity rule (for more details see step iii and iv of methodology) as depicted in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Final Reachability Matrix of Challenges to Mobile Wallets

SN	Ch1	Ch2	Ch3	Ch4	Ch5	Ch6	Ch7	Ch8	Ch9	Ch10	Ch11	DR
Ch1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	07
Ch2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	07
Ch3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	02
Ch4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Ch5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Ch6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	01
Ch7	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	05
CH8	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	05
Ch9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Ch10	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	05
Ch11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
DP	06	06	10	04	04	11	09	09	04	09	04	76

Note: DR= Driving Power; DP= Dependence Power

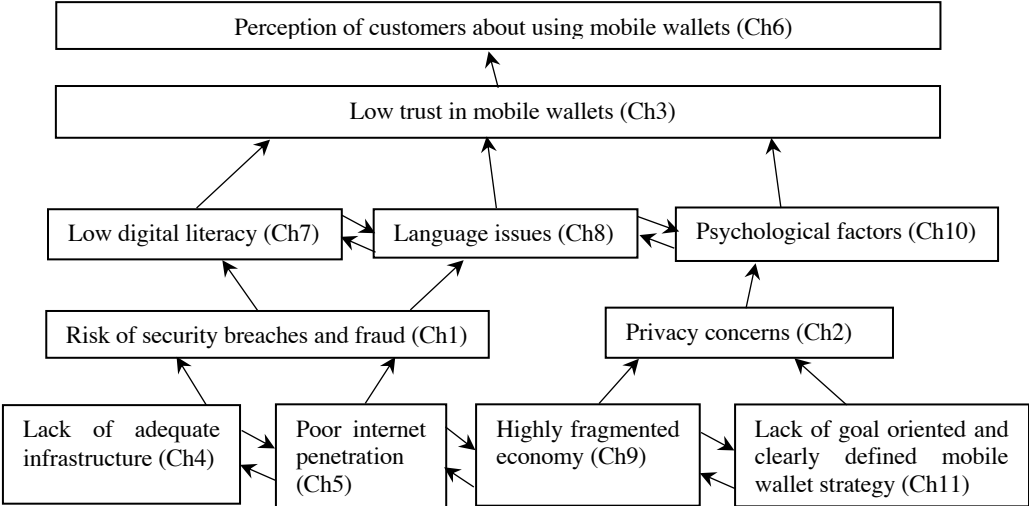
If the reachability set and the intersection set (for more details see step V of methodology) for any challenge was the same, then that challenge was assigned as level 1st (highest place in the ISM model). Once the level was assigned to the challenge, then that challenge was eliminated. This procedure was repeated to assign at most one level to each challenge. Final levels for the challenges are depicted in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Final Level of Challenges to Mobile Wallets in India

Level	Challenges to Mobile Wallets in India
1 <sup>st</sup>	• Perception of customers about the value of using mobile wallets (Ch6)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	• Low trust in mobile wallets (Ch3)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	• Low digital literacy (Ch7) • Language issues (Ch8) • Psychological factors (Ch10)
4 <sup>th</sup>	• Risk of security breaches and fraud (Ch1) • Privacy concerns (Ch2)
5 <sup>th</sup>	• Lack of adequate infrastructure (Ch4) • Poor Internet penetration (Ch5) • Highly fragmented economy (Ch9)

- Lack of goal oriented and clearly defined mobile wallet strategy (Ch11)

From the RMf (see Table 3) and final developed six levels of the challenges (Table 4), a hierarchical structural model regarding the challenges that retard mobile wallet usage in India was developed and is shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** ISM based structural model of identified challenges

It is clear from Figure 1 that ‘Lack of adequate infrastructure (Ch4)’, ‘Poor internet penetration (Ch5)’, ‘Highly fragmented economy (Ch9)’ and ‘Lack of goal oriented and clearly defined mobile wallet strategy (Ch11)’ are foundational challenges in the ISM hierarchical model i.e. cluster of independent challenges, thus these are most critical hurdles that prevent mobile wallets in India. ‘Perception of customers (Ch6)’ is found the top hierarchical level in the ISM model.

In the MICMAC analysis ([31]), the dependence power and driving power of challenges that prevent mobile wallets in India were analysed and plotted in Figure 2 as four different clusters.

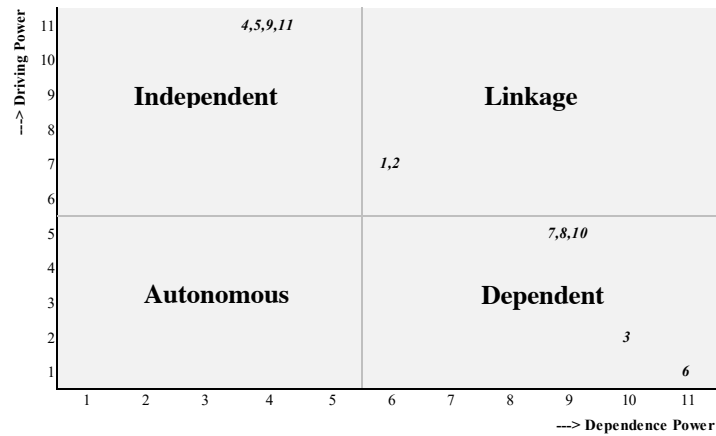


Figure 2. MICMAC analysis of identified challenges

All identified eleven challenges have an influence in implementing mobile wallets in India and are in the four clusters that are shown in Figure 2.

*Autonomous region: Nil*

This cluster of challenges has low driving and dependence power. These challenges fall near origin in Figure 2 and are almost disconnected from other challenges. These challenges are not affected by the system. In this research, no challenge is found in this cluster.

*Dependent region: Ch7, Ch8, Ch10, Ch3 and Ch6*

This region of challenges has high dependence and less driving power values. These challenges come under the top position of the structural model given by the ISM. They are strongly dependent on the independent and linkage region challenges to diminish the effect of these challenges in implementing mobile wallets in India.

*Linkage region: Ch1 and Ch2*

This cluster of challenges has high driving and dependence power values. These challenges are not stable in behaviour and any changes can affect the entire model and produce some feedback also. These challenges are positioned at the center of the structural model given by ISM.

*Independent region: Ch4, Ch5, Ch9 and Ch11*

This cluster of challenges has less dependence and high driving power values. They are also termed as key challenges. These challenges are positioned at the bottom of the structural model given by ISM.

## 5 Conclusion, Limitations and Future Work

This paper aims to identify and scrutinise challenges that prevent successful mobile wallet usage in India. A total of eleven challenges that may prevent successful implementation of mobile wallets usage have been identified through literature survey and decision makers' knowledge and experience. This paper has illustrated contextual interrelationships among the identified challenges and has constructed a hierarchy of



challenges that need to be overcome to have successful mobile wallet usage in Indian contexts.

ISM modelling combined with MICMAC has been used to fulfil the aims of this work. The challenges 'Lack of adequate infrastructure (Ch4)', 'Poor internet penetration (Ch5)', 'Highly fragmented economy (Ch9)' and 'Lack of goal oriented and clearly defined mobile wallet strategy (Ch11)' have been found to be independent challenges that prevent mobile wallet usage in India. These challenges are powerful and influential i.e. all other challenges are highly dependent on these challenges in effectively implementing mobile wallets. The findings of the present research may be important for policy makers, regulatory bodies and banking managers/practitioners in better understanding of these identified challenges removal towards effective implementation of mobile wallets system in India.

This work has presented a combined ISM-MICMAC framework that has been constructed using eleven mobile wallets usage challenges identified through literature and experts' inputs. In future research, this work may be extended with identifying more challenges and by using a larger dataset. The developed structural model has used a small number of experts' opinions, so we need to examine more experts' opinions. In future works, the identified challenges may be quantified using graph theory or any other appropriate Multi Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) tools. In future research, ISM model can be extended by applying Total Interpretive Structural Modelling (TISM) in developing a knowledge base of the interpretive logic of all the interactions among and within challenges for interpreting the structure model entirely.

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