



# Effects of marketing innovation on perceived value and consumer engagement in a restaurant operator in Mexico City

*Efectos de la innovación en marketing sobre valor percibido y engagement del consumidor en restaurantes de una operadora en Ciudad de México*

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## Abstract

Innovation is a relevant issue for any organization, and innovation in marketing is no exception, since it highlights the novelties in marketing activities and their relationship with value and engagement. Therefore, the objective of this article is to explain the effect of the perception of Marketing Innovation on Perceived Value and Consumer Engagement, as well as the effect of Perceived Value on Consumer Engagement in restaurants of an operator in Mexico City. A quantitative, explanatory and cross-sectional research was developed; 384 electronic surveys were applied to diners, and a structural equation model was used for the analysis. It was found that Marketing Innovation positively influences Perceived Value and Consumer Engagement, and that Perceived Value also positively affects Consumer Engagement.

JEL Code: M30, M31, O36, Q55

Keywords: marketing innovation; perceived value; consumer engagement; restaurant operator

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## Resumen

La innovación es un tema relevante para toda organización, innovación en marketing no es la excepción, pues destacan las novedades en las actividades de marketing y su relación con el valor y el engagement, por ello, el objetivo de este artículo es explicar el efecto de la percepción de la Innovación en marketing sobre el Valor percibido y el Engagement del consumidor, así como el efecto del Valor percibido sobre el Engagement de los consumidores en restaurantes de una operadora en Ciudad de México. Se desarrolló una investigación cuantitativa, explicativa y transversal; se aplicaron 384 encuestas electrónicas a comensales, y se utilizó un modelo de ecuaciones estructurales para el análisis. Se comprobó que la Innovación en marketing influye positivamente sobre el Valor percibido y sobre el Engagement del consumidor y que el Valor percibido también afecta positivamente el Engagement del consumidor.

*Código JEL:* M30, M31, O36, Q55

*Palabras clave:* innovación en marketing; valor percibido; engagement del consumidor; operadora de restaurantes

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## Introduction

Innovation in marketing is a relatively recent topic (Weiber & Pohl, 2016), although it has already been identified as a key to capturing markets, increasing competitiveness, and using novel marketing ideas (Gupta, Malhotra, Czinkota, & Foroudi, 2016). Several researchers note that there are still few references on the construct (Moreira, Silva, & Sousa, 2012; Quaye & Mensah, 2019; Zakerian, Mokhtari, & Sabegh, 2017), as to a large extent, the marketing literature has neglected the term and its effects on variables associated with consumer decisions (Cuevas, Parga, & Estrada, 2020).

The capacity of an organization's marketing innovation may influence aspects such as value creation and customer engagement (Drucker, 1954; Kanagal, 2015). Nonetheless, previous work has recommended studying this type of relation in sectors other than manufacturing (Sánchez-Gutiérrez, Cabanelas, Lampón, & González-Alvarado, 2019) and from other perspectives, such as that of the consumer. Despite the growth of the service sector—particularly the restaurant sector—it is characterized by focusing mainly on culinary innovation, often leaving aside marketing innovation (Lee, Hallak, & Sardeshmukh, 2019). Therefore, this paper aims to explain the effects that the perception of innovation in marketing has on both perceived value and consumer engagement, as well as the effect of perceived value on consumer engagement in restaurants managed by one of the large operators in this sector in Mexico City.

## Review of the literature

### *Innovation in marketing*

This construct is based on the theories of innovation and marketing, based on Schumpeter's concept of innovation (Lala, Preda, & Boldea, 2010). This author gave meaning to "innovation" with a focus on "marketing" by stating that any organization seeking to make a profit should innovate and, to this end, carry out certain activities such as launching a new product or marketing little-known features of an already known product or service, applying new production and sales methods, opening new markets, obtaining new resources to transform them into goods, and creating new structures in the industry (Śledzik, 2013). Subsequently, the OECD (2005) developed the concept of innovation in marketing, describing it as the application of a new marketing method based on consumer needs, which brings significant changes in product or packaging design, place or distribution (the place where the transaction occurs), and promotion and price to open new markets or develop a new positioning in the market to increase sales.

Five dimensions have been proposed to evaluate marketing innovation (Chávez, 2023): technological, managerial, market research and marketing intelligence, competitiveness, and marketing mix. The technological dimension involves the development of new designs, materials, and products (Zhu *et al.*, 2019). The managerial dimension focuses on business growth and its influence on innovation in management and business structure regarding innovation in marketing (Zakerian *et al.*, 2017). Market research and marketing intelligence refer to the fact that innovation in marketing requires valuable information from customers and is therefore supported by constant market research (Efrat *et al.*, 2017; Grimpe *et al.*, 2017). The competitiveness dimension states that marketing innovation contributes to defining and reinforcing competitive advantage based on distinction, for example, through price, quality, or other attributes in which the company performs well (Weiber & Phol, 2016). Finally, the marketing mix dimension refers to innovation in product design, novel pricing strategy, innovation in packaging, and innovation regarding the place of distribution and promotion (Haghighinasab *et al.*, 2013; OECD, 2005; Widjojo *et al.*, 2020).

### *Innovation in marketing and perceived value*

Perceived value is defined as the consumer's overall evaluation of the usefulness of a product based on the perception of what is received and what is delivered (Zeithaml, 1988). Authors such as Sweeney and

Soutar (2001) developed and validated a scale to measure perceived value by proposing the Perceived Value (PERVAL) scale, with three dimensions consumers perceive of a good: functional value, emotional value, and social value. Functional value corresponds to quality and price, to intrinsic factors of the product, and to those of a utilitarian nature (Gallarza & Gil-Saura, 2006; Sánchez, Swinnen, & Inniesta, 2013; Vivó & Gil-Saura, 2007). Emotional value refers to affective feelings when purchasing, i.e., internal values and subjective ratings that consumers assign to their purchase. It is not an inherent value of products but a value experienced by consumers (Merz et al., 2018; Woodruff & Gardial, 1996). Finally, social value refers to the goodness toward a person, idea, or product, i.e., this goodness involves a fact of worthiness for human life and society (Karababa & Kjeldgaard, 2014) and comprises the relations involved in the purchase (Vargo & Lusch, 2016).

Innovation creates value (Herskovits, 2015), and marketing innovation is expected to lead to innovation in marketing methods that add value to what is offered (OECD, 2006). Consumers can perceive the nature of a company's marketing innovation strategies. Nonetheless, few studies have attempted to understand perceived value in the context of marketing innovation (Rivière, 2015) and how consumers benefit, contribute, and participate in exchanges in a process, product, or service innovation context (Banyte & Dovaliene, 2014; Dovaliene et al., 2015).

Innovation in marketing influences perceived value. Customer perceptions of new efforts in a company's marketing strategy are expected to not only lead to differentiation of the product (Van Rielchu, 2012) but also impact consumers' perceived value (Chuah, Marimuthu, & Ramayah, 2016). For example, research conducted in restaurants in South Korea found that motivation to innovate in marketing, particularly in technology, affects consumers' perceived value (Kwak, Lee, & Cha, 2021). Also, a study on cruise travelers found that innovation focused on marketing experience influences perceived value (Hwang & Hyun, 2015). Thus, from the above, it is possible to propose that:

H1. The perception of innovation in marketing positively and significantly affects the consumer's perceived value of the restaurants of a restaurant operator in Mexico City.

### *Innovation in marketing and consumer engagement*

Consumer Engagement is a psychological state that occurs through the interaction of consumer experience focused on an object or agent for a brand or company (Brodie, Hollebeek, Jurić, & Ilić, 2011). Engagement is assessed concerning three internal aspects of the consumer (Cheung et al., 2011): vigor, dedication, and absorption. Vigor refers to physical behavior, i.e., the level of energy, time investment, and effort that a person uses as a consumer. Dedication is a person's commitment or enthusiasm to a consumer activity or brand. It involves emotional aspects that engage the senses, implying pride, enthusiasm, challenge, and

inspiration. Finally, absorption refers to the admiration or total dedication to an activity or brand and involves cognitive aspects that imply deep concentration.

It has been highlighted that innovation in marketing activities leads to consumer engagement for fostering long-lasting relationships with customers (Drucker, 1954; Vega, Olivero & Acosta, 2022) and that this kind of innovation intervenes in disruptive or incremental creations that generate value to produce engagement (Banyte & Dovaliene, 2014; Dovaliene et al., 2015). A study on innovation in sports marketing found that innovation in the product increased engagement among fans (Kröckel, Piazza & Wessel, 2023). Therefore, it is possible to propose that:

H2. The perception of marketing innovation positively and significantly affects consumer engagement in the restaurants of a restaurant operator in Mexico City.

### *Perceived value and consumer engagement*

The literature affirms that Perceived Value underpins many marketing decisions (Banyte & Dovaliene, 2014) and shapes consumers' purchase intentions (Bajs, 2015) as they evaluate the trade-off between the expected benefits of an offer and its cost (Stollery & Jun, 2017). Empirical work has shown that Perceived Value impacts consumer Engagement (Han, Che, & Chen, 2022). For example, research conducted in the restaurant industry found that Perceived Value positively influences consumer Engagement (Itani, Kassar & Loureiro, 2019). Therefore, it is proposed that:

H3. Perceived value positively and significantly affects consumer engagement in the restaurants of a restaurant operator in Mexico City.

## **Method and materials**

Quantitative and explanatory research was developed since the aim was to analyze the effects of the phenomena to be studied: Marketing Innovation (IM, Innovación en marketing) and its effects on Perceived Value (VP, Valor percibido) and Consumer Engagement (EC, Engagement del consumidor), as well as the effect of Perceived Value (VP) on Consumer Engagement. The analysis was performed through a PLS-SEM Structural Equation Model using 5 000 subsamples for the bootstrapping analysis.

Based on scales validated in the literature, a questionnaire was constructed and applied through an electronic survey. Five dimensions were used for the marketing innovation construct: technological, managerial, market research and marketing intelligence, strategic management competitiveness, and marketing mix. For the technological dimension, 8 items were used, adapted from Carrascosa, Peiró, and Segarra (2012) and Zhu et al. (2019). For the managerial dimension, 5 items were used, adapted from

Carrascosa et al. (2012) and Zakerian (2017). The market research and marketing intelligence dimension was measured with 5 items, adapted from Zakerian (2017) and Pinzón et al. (2013). For the competitiveness dimension focused on strategic management, 5 items adapted from Ferrer, González, and Mendoza (2015) were used. Finally, the marketing mix dimension used 8 items, adapted from Pinzón (2009) and Cuevas et al. (2020).

On the other hand, the consumer-perceived value construct has three dimensions (Gallarza & Gil-Saura, 2006; Sweeney & Soutar, 2001): functional, social, and emotional. The functional dimension was measured with 13 items, adapted from Vivó and Gil-Saura (2007) and Gallarza and Gil-Saura (2006). The social dimension was measured with 7 items adapted from Vivó and Gil-Saura (2007) and Gallarza and Gil-Saura (2006). Moreover, the emotional dimension used 5 items adapted from Vivó and Gil-Saura (2007). Finally, Consumer Engagement considers three dimensions (Dovaliene et al., 2015; Kim, Kim, & Wachter, 2013): Vigor-Physical Behavior, Absorption-Cognition, and Dedication-Emotion. 6 items adapted from Cheung et al. (2011) and Dovaliene et al. (2015) were used for the Vigor-Physical Behavior dimension. Absorption-Cognition was measured with 5 items adapted from Cheung et al. (2011) and Dovaliene et al. (2015). Furthermore, 5 items were used for Dedication-Emotion, adapted from Cheung et al. (2011) and Dovaliene et al. (2015). All items used a 5-point Likert scale, where 1= strongly disagree and 5= strongly agree. Given that the research was carried out in the environment of health measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the restaurant sector, two control variables were used to evaluate the consumer's perception of health safety within the restaurant through two items: Q1: Do you feel safe with the protocols implemented against COVID-19 in the restaurant during the pandemic? And Q2: Do you think it is safe to eat inside the restaurant, or do you prefer to take your meals home because of the risk of contagion?

The research was conducted in Mexico City with diners of a large operator of several restaurants. Seven of the operator's brands were chosen, focused on serving casual and family food. Based on a non-probabilistic convenience sampling, 384 surveys were used, exceeding the minimum application criteria to run a structural analysis with the model proposed (Gorsuch, 1983). All participants were older than 15, of indistinct gender, and had visited a restaurant of the brands included in the study in the last 12 months (Table 1). Fieldwork was conducted between February and April 2021. Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the participants.

Table 1  
Demographic characteristics of diners

Age	Frequency	%	Marital status	Frequency	%
16-26	239	62.2	Single	266	69.3
27-38	67	17.4	Married	75	19.5
39-49	58	15.1	Cohabiting	37	9.6
50-60	15	3.9	Widow(er)	6	1.6
61-71	5	1.3			
Total	384	100.0	Total	384	100.0
Gender	Frequency	%	Purchase frequency	Frequency	%
Female	247	64.3	Daily	2	.5
Male	137	35.7	2 to 3 times per week	16	4.2
			Once a week	23	6.0
			Once a fortnight	57	14.8
			Once a month	168	43.8
			Other	118	30.7
Total	384	100.0	Total	384	100.0

Source: created by the authors

## Results

The analysis was divided into two stages: 1) evaluation of the measurement model and 2) evaluation of the structural model.

### *Evaluation of the measurement model*

The three latent variables were evaluated to verify the reliability and validity of the constructs Marketing Innovation, Perceived Value, and Consumer Engagement. All item loadings were assessed. Those that met the minimum required value of 0.70 were retained (Sarstedt, Ringle, Smith, Reams, & Hair, 2014), while the seventeen that did not meet the loading were eliminated (IMT1, IMT7, IMT8, IMG2, IMIm2, IMMk4, IMMk6, IMMk7, IMMk8, VPF1, VPF2, VPF3, VPF6, VPS1, ECVC1, ECVA5, ECDE4). Furthermore, internal consistency reliability was tested through Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability (CR). Regarding Cronbach's Alpha, all three constructs exceeded the minimum acceptable value ( $\alpha > 0.708$ ) (Henseler, Ringle, & Sinkovics, 2009): IM (0.932), VP (0.931) and EC (0.934), and the same was true for each of the dimensions of the evaluator constructs (Table 2). As for Composite Reliability (CR), all constructs presented high levels of reliability (between 0.854 and 0.956) within

acceptable values [0.7 and 0.9] (Hair, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2011): IM (0.940), VP (0.939), and EC (0.943), the same for their respective dimensions (Table 2).

Table 2  
Internal consistency reliability

Construct	Cronbach's Alpha $\alpha$	Composite reliability (CR)
IMT (Technological)	0.846	0.891
IMG (Managerial, Gerencial)	0.745	0.854
IMIm (Market research and marketing intelligence, Investigación mercados e inteligencia marketing)	0.816	0.891
IMC (Competitiveness)	0.848	0.892
IMMk (Marketing mix)	0.777	0.857
VPF (VP Functional)	0.905	0.922
VPE (VP Emotional)	0.880	0.913
VPS (VP Social)	0.945	0.956
ECVC (vigor-physical behavior)	0.767	0.866
ECAC (absorption-cognition)	0.857	0.898
ECDE (dedication-emotion)	0.884	0.920

Note: created by the authors based on the results of the study obtained from PLS 3.3

The construct validity was also evaluated, which was carried out employing convergent validity and discriminant validity. The convergent validity is shown in the external loadings, and Table 3 shows that all of them are greater than 0.708; therefore, the criterion is met (Sarstedt, Ringle, Smith, Reams, & Hair, 2014). Also, the composite reliability of each construct is greater than 0.75, and the average extracted variance values of all constructs are above 0.50 (Sarstedt et al., 2014).



Table 3

External loadings, composite reliability, and average extracted variance

Construct	Items	External loads	Composite reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
IMT (Technological)	IMT2	0.747	0.891	0.620
	IMT3	0.841		
	IMT4	0.793		
	IMT5	0.761		
	IMT6	0.793		
	IMG3	0.837		
IMG (Managerial, Gerencial)	IMG4	0.777	0.854	0.662
	IMG5	0.824		
	IMIm3	0.829		
IMIm (Market research and marketing intelligence)	IMIm4	0.877	0.891	0.731
	IMIm5	0.858		
	IMC1	0.745		
IMC (Competitiveness)	IMC2	0.766	0.892	0.623
	IMC3	0.824		
	IMC4	0.826		
	IMC5	0.781		
	IMMk1	0.806		
IMMk (Marketing mix)	IMMk2	0.764	0.857	0.600
	IMMk3	0.786		
	IMMk5	0.741		
	VPF4	0.764		
VPF (Functional perceived value, Valor percibido Funcional)	VPF5	0.752	0.922	0.569
	VPF7	0.786		
	VPF8	0.714		
	VPF9	0.771		
	VPF10	0.745		
	VPF11	0.735		
	VPF12	0.800		
	VPF13	0.714		
	VPE1	0.857		
VPE (Perceived Emotional Value, Valor percibido Emocional)	VPE2	0.714	0.913	0.678
	VPE3	0.840		
	VPE4	0.846		
	VPE5	0.850		
	VPS2	0.857		
VPS (Social Perceived Value, Valor percibido Social)	VPS3	0.872	0.956	0.783
	VPS4	0.906		
	VPS5	0.872		
	VPS6	0.906		
	VPS7	0.896		
	ECVC2	0.782		
ECVC (vigor-physical behavior)	ECVC3	0.833	0.866	0.683
	ECVC4	0.862		
	ECAC1	0.825		
ECAC (absorption-cognition)	ECAC2	0.842	0.898	0.638

	ECAC3	0.781		
	ECAC4	0.742		
	ECAC5	0.799		
ECDE (dedication-emotion)	ECDE1	0.865	0.920	0.742
	ECDE2	0.866		
	ECDE3	0.846		
	ECDE5	0.868		

Source: created by the authors

Moreover, the discriminant validity analysis (Table 4) was performed employing the Fornell-Larcker criterion, and it was corroborated that each variable shares more variance with its indicators than with other variables (Hair *et al.*, 2011).

Table 4  
Discriminant validity through the Fornell-Larcker criterion

	ECAC	IMC	VPE	ECDE	VPF	IMG	IMIm	IMMk	VPS	IMT	ECVC
ECAC	0.799										
IMC	0.483	0.789									
VPE	0.492	0.551	0.823								
ECDE	0.813	0.529	0.499	0.861							
VPF	0.446	0.562	0.800	0.444	0.754						
IMG	0.482	0.653	0.464	0.489	0.500	0.813					
IMIm	0.501	0.745	0.644	0.525	0.622	0.683	0.855				
IMMk	0.494	0.671	0.583	0.488	0.622	0.573	0.650	0.775			
VPS	0.656	0.470	0.343	0.689	0.313	0.393	0.405	0.442	0.885		
IMT	0.455	0.498	0.527	0.405	0.543	0.537	0.548	0.565	0.337	0.787	
ECVC	0.712	0.530	0.488	0.769	0.453	0.442	0.472	0.534	0.682	0.403	0.826

Note: created by the authors based on the results of the study obtained from PLS 3.3

### Structural model

Once the validity of the model was verified, the structural model was run, which helped to evaluate the possible existence of the effects to be tested and the explanation between the constructs by evaluating collinearity, path coefficients ( $\beta$ ), validation of the model by Bootstrapping, coefficient of determination  $R^2$ , effect size  $f^2$ , and the Stone-Geisser coefficient ( $Q^2$ ). Regarding collinearity, the FIV was 1 for the three constructs (IM, VP, and EC). As these results were lower than 3.3, it can be stated that there is no presence of multicollinearity among the variables (Hair *et al.*, 2011). For the evaluation of the hypotheses and their algebraic sign, statistical significance, and magnitude, path coefficients ( $\beta$ ), t-test, and p-values were analyzed.

The standardized value of a path ( $\beta$ ) can assume values between +1 and -1. The analysis results were:  $\beta H1 = 0.764$ ,  $\beta H2 = 0.219$ , and  $\beta H3 = 0.535$ , all significant (Table 5), so each of the hypotheses

formulated were tested. Regarding the control variables, which measured the effect of COVID-19 on consumer engagement, the results were not significant: Q1 ( $\beta=0.032$ ,  $t=0.786$ ) and Q2 ( $\beta=-0.052$ ,  $t=1.329$ ), which shows that there is no effect of the control variables on consumer engagement.

Table 5  
Hypotheses evaluation

Hypothesis	Path ( $\beta$ ) Original sample (O)	T-test (Bootstrapping) T-statistics ( O/STDEV )	P-values (significance)
H1. Marketing innovation (IM) -> Perceived value (VP)	0.764	32.722	0.000
H2. Marketing Innovation (IM) -> Consumer Engagement (EC)	0.219	3.453	0.001
H3. Perceived Value (VP) -> Consumer Engagement (EC)	0.535	8.528	0.000

Note: created by the authors using a 5 000 sample Bootstrapping algorithm

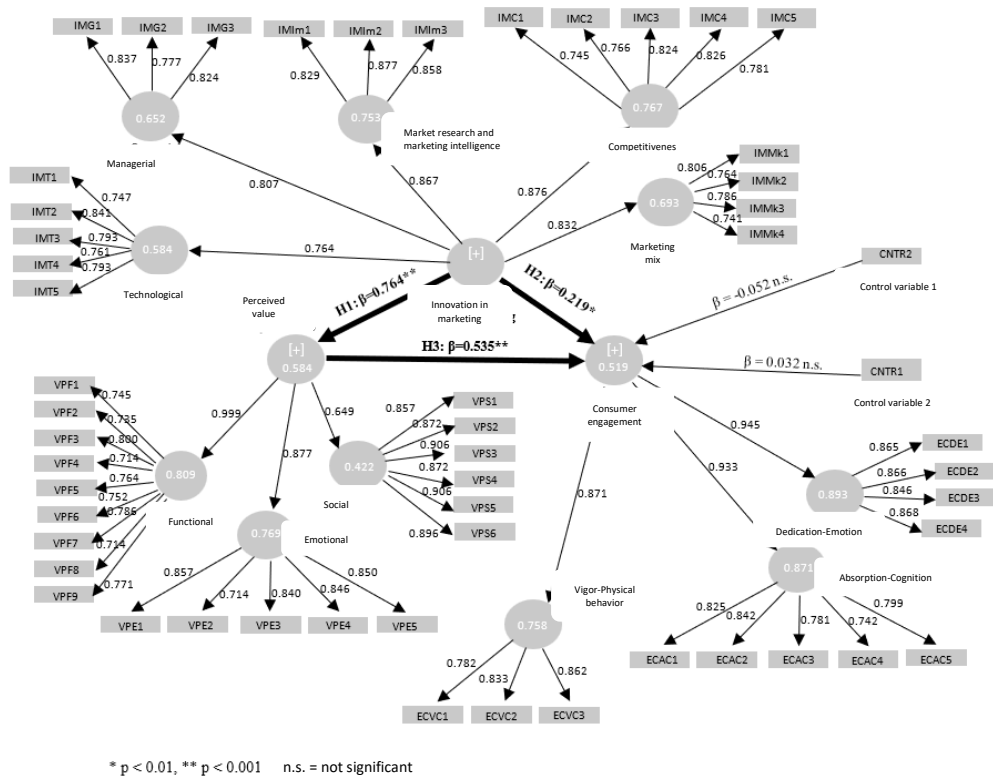


Figure 1. shows the structural model with the resulting values.

In addition to the evaluation of the hypotheses, the predictive capacity of the model was reviewed through three indicators: the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), the effect size ( $f^2$ ), and the Stone-Geisser coefficient ( $Q^2$ ). Regarding  $R^2$ , eight variables presented substantial value, with values between 0.67 and 0.75 (Chin, 1998; Hair et al., 2017), and five showed a moderate value, with values between 0.33 and 0.50 (Chin, 1998; Hair et al., 2017). None presented a weak value. Consequently, the latent variables of the model showed a satisfactory predictive power (Chin 1998): Marketing Innovation (IM) explained 58.4% of Perceived Value (VP) and 51.9% of Consumer Engagement (EC). These results showed that both constructs presented a satisfactory predictive quality (Table 6).

Table 6  
Coefficient of determination  $R^2$

Construct / Dimension	$R^2$	Valor
Cognition	0.871	substantial
Competitiveness	0.767	substantial
Emotional	0.769	substantial
Emotion	0.893	substantial
Consumer engagement	0.519	moderate
Functional	0.809	substantial
Managerial	0.652	moderate
Research and market intelligence	0.753	substantial
Marketing mix	0.693	substantial
Social	0.422	moderate
Technological	0.584	moderate
Perceived value	0.584	moderate
Vigor	0.758	substantial

Source: created by the authors

Concerning effect size  $f^2$  (Table 7), Cohen's criteria (1998) were used, and it was found that Marketing Innovation had a large effect on Perceived Value (1.403) but a small effect on Consumer Engagement (0.041). Moreover, Perceived Value showed a medium-sized effect on Consumer Engagement (0.245). Regarding the predictive relevance ( $Q^2$ ) of the structural model (tables 8 and 9), Chin's (1998) reference was used, and it was found that the  $Q^2$  of the model had a predictive relevance of 0.25 of Marketing Innovation on Perceived Value and 0.296 on Consumer Engagement. Therefore, it can be stated that the model has a good predictive quality.

Table 7  
F<sup>2</sup> effect

Exogenous construct	Endogenous constructs			
	Perceived value (VP)		Consumer Engagement (EC)	
	Path coefficients (β)	F <sup>2</sup> effects	Path coefficients (β)	F <sup>2</sup> effects
Marketing Innovation (IM)	0.764	1.403	0.219	0.041
Perceived value (VP)	NV	NV	0.535	0.245

Note: SV=No value

Source: created by the authors

Table 8  
Q<sup>2</sup> values

Variables	Q <sup>2</sup> (=1-SSE/SSO)
Cognition	0.549
Competitiveness	0.470
Emotional	0.517
Emotion	0.658
Consumer engagement	0.296
Functional	0.454
Managerial	0.424
Research and market intelligence	0.546
Marketing mix	0.411
Social	0.325
Technological	0.356
Perceived value	0.251
Vigor	0.512

Source: created by the authors

Table 9  
Q<sup>2</sup> Predictive Relevance

Exogenous construct	Endogenous constructs			
	Perceived value (VP)		Consumer Engagement (EC)	
	Path coefficients (β)	Q <sup>2</sup> Effects	Path coefficients (β)	Q <sup>2</sup> Effects
Marketing Innovation (IM)	0.764	0.251	0.219	0.296

Source: created by the authors

## Discussion

This paper aimed to explain the effects of perceived marketing innovation on Perceived Value and Consumer Engagement. Hypothesis 1 states that Marketing Innovation (IM) positively and significantly affects Perceived Value (VP), and as shown in the results, this hypothesis was proven. This means that when the consumer perceives that there is marketing innovation in technology, management aspects,

market research and intelligence, competitiveness, and marketing mix, then perceived value improves for various attributes, such as price and product quality, as well as internal consumer issues, and social and emotional aspects. This result coincides with other research that has concluded that innovation creates and generates value (Herskovits, 2015; Widjojo et al., 2020), both co-created and shared (Kanagal, 2015). Works such as those of Mohr (1969) and Vargo and Lusch (2004, 2008) have also supported this effect, advocating that they should be measured from the demand side since, for an invention to be transformed into innovation and have an effect on value, they must be acquired in the market.

Regarding Hypothesis 2, it was confirmed that marketing innovation has a positive and significant effect on consumer engagement. This result is consistent with Drucker's (1954) postulation and Mollen and Wilson's (2010) finding that innovation and marketing activities lead to engagement. Therefore, when the consumer perceives some type of innovation in marketing, whether in technology, managerial aspects, marketing intelligence, competitiveness, or marketing mix, consumer engagement toward the company may occur from a physical, cognitive, or emotional point of view.

This research found that perceived value positively affects consumer engagement. Therefore, Hypothesis 3 is accepted. This is consistent with the contributions of Alexander and Jaakkola (2022), as they state that perceived value affects the role of consumer engagement. Likewise, other works have found that Perceived Value positively affects Consumer Engagement (Xie, Guan, He, & Huan, 2021). In the operator's restaurants studied, consumers develop physical, cognitive, and emotional engagement with the restaurant by perceiving its value, that is, by perceiving value in price and quality, emotional value, and social value.

Thus, Consumer Engagement is influenced by both Marketing Innovation and Perceived Value. Nevertheless, Perceived Value has a greater effect on Engagement, as both Perceived Value and Engagement are internal aspects of the consumer (Dovaliene et al., 2015; Karababa & Kjeldgaard, 2014; Payne, Storbacka, & Frow, 2007; Storbacka, 2019).

Each purchasing situation is unique in the consumption experience, as it depends on perception (Hidayati & Novani, 2015; Vargo & Lusch, 2004). Besides, value is shaped by social experiences (Grönroos & Voima, 2011). Moreover, the value placed by the consumer on engaging in relations (engagement) goes beyond the company (Sweeney, Danaher & McColl, 2015) as social aspects such as family and friends exert an influence, in addition to cognitive and emotional aspects (Payne et al., 2007). Such aspects make consumers perceive value from within themselves (Karababa & Kjeldgaard, 2014) and are associated with engagement (Dovaliene et al., 2015). Innovation is different, as it occurs from the company to the consumer.

## Conclusions

This research pursued two objectives. On the one hand, it sought to explain the effects of consumer perception on marketing innovation regarding both perceived value and consumer engagement and, on the other hand, to evaluate the effect of consumer perceived value on consumer engagement in restaurants managed by one of the largest restaurant operators in this sector in Mexico City. Using empirical research, it was found that the perception of marketing innovations in restaurants positively affects perceived value and consumer engagement. In addition, the value perceived by consumers positively influences the development of Engagement with the restaurant.

These findings are relevant to the restaurant industry, as an investment in generating innovation in the dimensions of technology, management, market research, marketing intelligence, competitiveness, and elements of the marketing mix can be powerful for generating perceived value and engagement, which is likely to translate into profitability and enable a sustainable competitive advantage.

As in other studies, this one also has some limitations since convenience sampling was applied, which limits the generalizability of the study to the restaurant sector. Additionally, data was collected during the red traffic light phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore, only seven out of twelve brands were considered, belonging to a single restaurant operator in Mexico City. Consequently, it is recommended that future studies replicate the research at a post-pandemic moment and in restaurants in other states in Mexico or other countries. Finally, it is recommended to study the progress of the line of research associated with marketing innovation in the sector also in small and medium-sized restaurants (SMEs).

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