

## **A STUDY ON PURCHASING INTENTION OF CUSTOMERS ABOUT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN PUNE URBAN REGION**

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### **Abstract**

*The Indian real estate market has witnessed dynamic shifts, driven by urbanization, rising disposable incomes, and policy reforms such as RERA (Real Estate Regulation and Development Act). Pune, as a prominent real estate hub, reflects these trends with growing demand for both affordable and premium housing. The city's robust infrastructure, IT sector expansion, and educational institutions contribute to its real estate appeal. However, market fluctuations, changing buyer preferences, and post-pandemic economic adjustments present challenges for developers and investors. Key variables influencing purchasing decisions include pricing trends, loan accessibility, perceived value, amenities, and future appreciation potential. Emotional factors such as lifestyle aspirations and security also play a significant role. Developers and policymakers must align strategies with these variables to enhance market stability and buyer satisfaction. This research provides insights into the evolving residential real estate landscape in India, with a focus on Pune, offering actionable recommendations for industry players. By addressing critical demand drivers and challenges, stakeholders can better navigate market complexities and foster sustainable growth.*

**Keywords:** *Purchasing intention, Residential real estate, Market trends, Pune property market, Buyer behaviour, RERA impact.*

### **Introduction**

The real estate sector plays a pivotal role in economic development, serving as a key indicator of a region's growth and stability. Residential property markets, in particular, reflect consumer confidence, economic trends, and socio-cultural shifts. In India, rapid urbanization, increasing disposable incomes, and policy reforms have significantly influenced housing demand. Pune, a major metropolitan hub, has emerged as one of the most dynamic real estate markets due to its thriving IT sector, educational institutions, and infrastructure development. However, purchasing a residential property remains one of the most significant financial decisions for individuals, shaped by multiple psychological, economic, and situational factors. Understanding consumer purchasing intention is crucial for developers, marketers, and policymakers to align their strategies with buyer expectations. Unlike routine purchases, real estate transactions involve high involvement, long-term commitment, and emotional considerations. From a marketing perspective, several components influence a buyer's decision, including perceived value, affordability, location attractiveness, developer reputation, financing options, and government policies. Additionally, socio-cultural factors such as family needs, lifestyle aspirations, and investment motives further shape purchasing behavior.

Components Influencing Consumer Intention in Residential Property Purchase:- Consumer intention in real estate is not merely a function of financial capability but also a complex

interplay of psychological and market-driven factors. Perceived Value – Buyers assess the worth of a property based on tangible (construction quality, amenities) and intangible (prestige, future appreciation) benefits (Kotler & Keller, 2016). Pricing remains a decisive factor, influenced by income levels, loan accessibility, and payment flexibility (Ghyasi & Kavousi, 2020). Proximity to workplaces, schools, hospitals, and transportation hubs significantly impacts buyer preference (Adair et al., 2019) Trust in the builder's credibility, past project delivery, and legal compliance (especially post-RERA) affects purchase confidence (Singh & Das, 2021). Tax benefits, subsidies (e.g., PMAY), and regulatory frameworks (RERA) shape market sentiment (Ministry of Housing, 2020). Family needs, peer recommendations, and lifestyle aspirations often override purely rational decisions (Ajzen, 1991).

The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) is a psychological framework that explains how individuals form intentions and engage in specific behaviours. Proposed by Icek Ajzen in 1991, this model extends the earlier Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) by incorporating perceived behavioural control as a key determinant of behaviour. According to TPB, human actions are guided by three primary factors: attitudes toward the behaviour, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control. Attitudes refer to an individual's positive or negative evaluation of performing a particular behaviour. These attitudes are shaped by beliefs about the outcomes of the behaviour and the value attached to those outcomes. For example, if a person believes that recycling benefits the environment, they are more likely to develop a favourable attitude toward recycling. Subjective norms reflect the perceived social pressure to perform or avoid a behaviour. This component considers the influence of significant others, such as family, friends, or societal expectations. If an individual perceives that their peers approve of a behaviour (e.g., exercising regularly), they are more likely to intend to engage in it. Perceived behavioural control pertains to the individual's confidence in their ability to perform the behavior, considering internal and external constraints. This factor accounts for situations where people may intend to act but lack the necessary resources or skills. For instance, someone may want to adopt a healthy diet but may feel unable to do so due to limited access to nutritious food. TPB posits that these three factors collectively shape behavioral intentions, which are the strongest predictors of actual behavior. The model has been widely applied in various fields, including health psychology, environmental studies, and consumer behavior, due to its robust predictive power in explaining voluntary actions.

Consumer Decision-Model (Blackwell et al., 2006) The Consumer Decision-Model (CDM), developed by Blackwell, Miniard, and Engel in 2006, provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the stages consumers go through before making a purchase. This model builds upon earlier decision-making theories and emphasizes a sequential process influenced by psychological, social, and situational factors. The CDM consists of five key stages: problem recognition, information search, evaluation of alternatives, purchase decision, and post-purchase behaviour. Problem recognition occurs when a consumer identifies a need or desire that is not currently satisfied. This can be triggered by internal stimuli (e.g., hunger) or external stimuli (e.g., advertisements). Once the need is recognized, the consumer moves to the information search stage, where they seek information about potential solutions. This search can be internal (recalling past experiences) or external (consulting reviews, friends, or

advertisements). After gathering information, the consumer enters the evaluation of alternatives phase, where they compare different products or services based on attributes such as price, quality, and brand reputation. The purchase decision follows, where the consumer selects the most suitable option and completes the transaction. However, situational factors (e.g., store availability or discounts) can influence this decision at the last moment. Finally, post-purchase behaviours determines whether the consumer is satisfied with their choice. Satisfaction leads to brand loyalty and positive word-of-mouth, while dissatisfaction may result in returns, complaints, or switching to competitors. The CDM highlights that consumer decisions are not linear but are influenced by cognitive, emotional, and environmental factors throughout the process. Stimulus-Organism-Response (S-O-R) Model – Mehrabian & Russell (1974)

The Stimulus-Organism-Response (S-O-R) model, introduced by Mehrabian and Russell in 1974, explains how environmental stimuli affect an individual's internal state, leading to behavioral responses. Originally developed in environmental psychology, this model has been widely applied in retail, marketing, and digital environments to understand consumer reactions.

The stimulus (S) component refers to external factors that trigger a psychological or emotional reaction. These stimuli can be physical (e.g., store layout, lighting), social (e.g., interactions with staff), or digital (e.g., website design, advertisements). The organism (O) represents the internal cognitive and affective processes that occur in response to the stimulus. This includes emotions, perceptions, and mental evaluations. For example, a well-designed retail environment may evoke feelings of pleasure or arousal, influencing the consumer's willingness to explore or purchase. The response (R) is the resulting behavior, which can be approach (e.g., staying longer in a store, making a purchase) or avoidance (e.g., leaving quickly, rejecting a product). The S-O-R model suggests that businesses can shape consumer behavior by strategically designing stimuli that evoke positive emotional and cognitive states.

In digital marketing, this model helps explain how website aesthetics, usability, and content influence user engagement and conversion rates. By optimizing stimuli (e.g., intuitive navigation, appealing visuals), marketers can enhance the user experience and drive desired responses. The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), proposed by Fred Davis in 1989, is a theoretical framework that explains how users adopt and use new technologies. Grounded in the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), TAM identifies two primary determinants of technology acceptance: perceived usefulness (PU) and perceived ease of use (PEOU). Perceived usefulness refers to the degree to which a user believes that a technology will enhance their performance or productivity. For instance, an employee may adopt a new software tool if they believe it will streamline their workflow. Perceived ease of use reflects the extent to which a user finds the technology effortless to operate. If a system is intuitive and requires minimal training, users are more likely to accept it. TAM posits that these perceptions influence attitudes toward using the technology, which in turn shape behavioral intentions and actual usage. External variables, such as training, system design, and social influence, can also indirectly affect acceptance by altering PU and PEOU. Over time, TAM has been extended to include additional factors like social influence (TAM2) and hedonic

motivations (TAM3). The model remains highly influential in information systems research, helping organizations design user-friendly technologies and improve adoption rates.

#### Literature Review:-

Economic stability and affordability are primary considerations for homebuyers. According to Gupta and Singh (2022), disposable income, mortgage interest rates, and property prices significantly impact purchasing decisions. In Pune, the rise of IT professionals has increased demand for mid-segment and premium housing, but affordability remains a concern (Deshpande & Patil, 2023). A study by Joshi et al. (2021) found that buyers prioritize EMI feasibility over other financial factors, indicating that loan accessibility influences purchase intentions.

Inflation and market fluctuations also affect buyer sentiment. Research by Kulkarni and Rao (2023) suggests that during economic uncertainty, buyers delay purchases, preferring rented accommodations. However, government incentives such as reduced stamp duties (as seen during COVID-19) temporarily boost demand (Sharma & Nair, 2022). Location remains a dominant factor in residential property selection. Proximity to workplaces, schools, hospitals, and transportation hubs enhances property value (Mehta & Iyer, 2023). Pune's expanding metro network and highway connectivity have increased demand in areas like Hinjewadi, Wakad, and Kharadi (Bhosale & Deshmukh, 2022). A study by Agarwal and Choudhary (2023) found that homebuyers in Pune prioritize well-connected localities over larger properties in distant suburbs.

Infrastructure development, including roads, water supply, and public amenities, also impacts buying decisions. Research by Pawar and Jadhav (2021) indicates that incomplete infrastructure projects create hesitancy among buyers, whereas developed neighborhoods attract higher investments. Consumer psychology plays a key role in real estate decisions. The **Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)** (Ajzen, 1991) suggests that attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived control influence purchase intentions. A study by Nair and Menon (2022) found that emotional attachment, prestige, and future appreciation potential drive buyers in Pune's luxury segment.

Perceived risk also affects decision-making. Uncertainty about legal clearances, construction delays, and builder credibility leads to hesitation (Kapoor & Reddy, 2023). Real estate brands with strong reputations, like Lodha and Kolte-Patil, attract more buyers due to trust (Verma & Tiwari, 2022). The rise of digital platforms has transformed property searches. Virtual tours, online reviews, and social media marketing significantly impact buyer preferences (Malhotra & Khanna, 2023). A survey by Rane and Kulkarni (2022) found that 68% of Pune homebuyers begin their property search online, relying on platforms like Magicbricks and 99acres.

Content marketing and influencer endorsements also shape perceptions. Developers using YouTube walkthroughs and Instagram campaigns report higher engagement (Patel & Shah, 2023). However, misleading advertisements create distrust, emphasizing the need for transparency (Kumar & Joshi, 2021). Government interventions, such as RERA (Real Estate Regulation Act), have increased buyer confidence by ensuring accountability (Shah & Desai,

2023). Tax benefits on home loans under Section 80C and 24(B) further incentivize purchases (Srivastava & Mishra, 2022). However, frequent policy changes, like GST revisions, create confusion, temporarily slowing demand (Reddy & Naik, 2021). Different age groups exhibit varying preferences. Millennials prefer compact, tech-enabled homes in integrated townships (Chauhan & Mehta, 2023), while families prioritize spacious layouts and safety (Iyer & Nambiar, 2022). NRIs investing in Pune prefer gated communities due to security and maintenance benefits (Singh & Agarwal, 2023).

### Research Methodology:-

The research methodology outlines the systematic approach used to investigate the factors influencing customers' purchasing intentions for residential properties in Pune's urban region. A mixed-method approach was adopted to ensure comprehensive data collection, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative insights for deeper analysis. The study targeted potential homebuyers, investors, and real estate professionals with adequate knowledge of Pune's residential property market. The sample size consisted of 137 respondents, ensuring a balanced representation of different demographics. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire with Likert-scale-based questions, and Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was applied to identify key influencing factors. The study followed a descriptive and exploratory research design to analyze purchasing intentions. A mixed-method approach was chosen to leverage both numerical data (quantitative) and subjective opinions (qualitative). This dual approach helped in quantifying buyer preferences (e.g., location, budget, amenities). Understanding behavioral and psychological factors (e.g., trust in builders, emotional attachment to properties). The research employed a non-probability purposive sampling technique, selecting respondents who had prior experience in property buying or investment. Were actively searching for residential properties in Pune. Included real estate agents, investors, and end-users for diverse perspectives. The sample size of 137 was determined based on. Statistical adequacy for factor analysis (recommended minimum of 100-150 for EFA). Representation across key demographics (age, income, occupation).

### Data Assumption and Validation

#### Bartlett's Test of Sphericity

##### KMO and Bartlett's Test

|  |                    |         |
|--|--------------------|---------|
| Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy. |                    | .725    |
| Bartlett's Test of Sphericity                    | Approx. Chi-Square | 442.779 |
|  | df                 | 136     |
|  | Sig.               | .000    |

A significant result (Sig. < 0.05) indicates matrix is not an identity matrix.

Significant value is less than 0.05. It means that identified variables do relate with each other and we have enough evidences to conduct exploratory factor analysis.

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy is 0.725 which is moderate in nature and it can be stated that factors identified can be useful in conducting research.

**Communalities**

| <b>Communalities</b>   |         |            |
|--|---------|------------|
|  | Initial | Extraction |
| I am Satisfied with the services provider by Builders  | 1.000   | .267       |
| I am satisfied with the Pricing of Residential Property  | 1.000   | .748       |
| I am satisfied with after Sales services provided by builder   | 1.000   | .779       |
| Do You Satisfied With Discounts Provided By Builders on Residential Property   | 1.000   | .799       |
| I Agree With Builders Booking Amount Non-Refundable Policy   | 1.000   | .612       |
| Do you satisfied With Amenities Provided by Builders   | 1.000   | .655       |
| I agree with Price Hikes by Builders on Residential Property after Every Month/Quarter                                 | 1.000   | .748       |
| I am happy with Construction Quality of the builder  | 1.000   | .781       |
| Location is an important element while booking the property  | 1.000   | .738       |
| I usually compare the prices with other builder while purchasing the property  | 1.000   | .630       |
| Maintenance of Society is an important parameter for me  | 1.000   | .764       |
| I get the possession as per the commitment given by builder  | 1.000   | .721       |
| I calculate Appreciation rate of Current Location while purchasing the property  | 1.000   | .805       |
| Returns on Investment is also important Parameter While purchasing the property  | 1.000   | .796       |
| I am happy with the Safety Features Provided by Builders   | 1.000   | .695       |
| Connectivity of Project (metro stations, hospitals, bus stops, etc.) is important for Me while purchasing the property | 1.000   | .730       |
| USP’s (unique selling proposition) of Project attracts me to purchase the property                                     | 1.000   | .687       |

**Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.**

Communality is the extent to which an item correlates with all other items. Higher communalities are better. If communalities for a particular variable is low (between 0.0-0.4), then that variable may struggle to load significantly on any factor.

Among all variables only one variable communalities value is below 0.04.

That variable is - "**services provider by Builders**" hence as per the decision rule that one variable is not considered while loading the factors. The minimum communality value should be 0.5. All values are above 0.5 except one variable.

**Total Variance Explained**

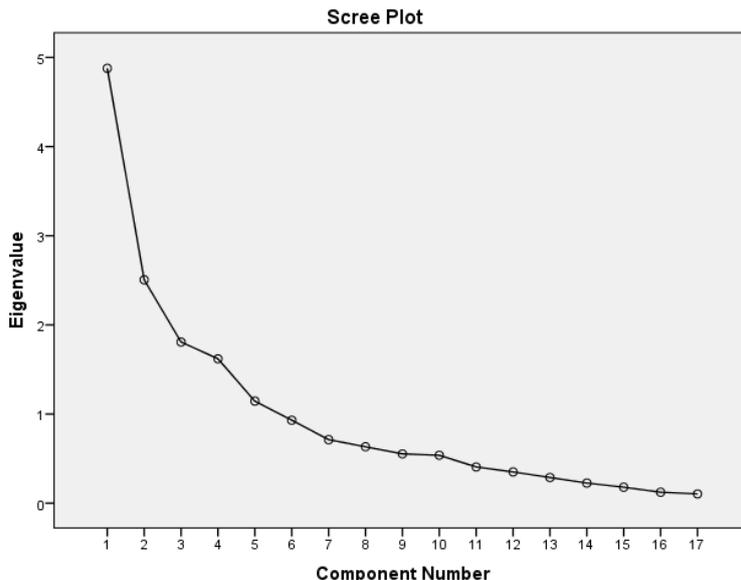
| Component | Initial Eigenvalues |               |              | Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings |               |              | Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings |               |               |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|           | Total               | % of Variance | Cumulative % | Total                               | % of Variance | Cumulative % | Total                             | % of Variance | Cumulative %  |
| 1         | 4.878               | 28.693        | 28.693       | <b>4.878</b>                        | 28.693        | 28.693       | 3.000                             | 17.646        | 17.646        |
| 2         | 2.506               | 14.739        | 43.432       | <b>2.506</b>                        | 14.739        | 43.432       | 2.806                             | 16.508        | 34.153        |
| 3         | 1.808               | 10.635        | 54.067       | <b>1.808</b>                        | 10.635        | 54.067       | 2.384                             | 14.022        | 48.175        |
| 4         | 1.620               | 9.529         | 63.595       | <b>1.620</b>                        | 9.529         | 63.595       | 1.926                             | 11.328        | 59.503        |
| 5         | 1.145               | 6.735         | 70.330       | <b>1.145</b>                        | 6.735         | 70.330       | 1.841                             | 10.828        | <b>70.330</b> |
| 6         | .931                | 5.477         | 75.808       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 7         | .713                | 4.192         | 79.999       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 8         | .633                | 3.722         | 83.721       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 9         | .553                | 3.253         | 86.974       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 10        | .538                | 3.162         | 90.137       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 11        | .406                | 2.391         | 92.528       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 12        | .350                | 2.061         | 94.589       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 13        | .288                | 1.695         | 96.283       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 14        | .226                | 1.328         | 97.612       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 15        | .179                | 1.054         | 98.666       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 16        | .123                | .724          | 99.390       |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |
| 17        | .104                | .610          | 100.000      |                                     |               |              |                                   |               |               |

**Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.**

Eigenvalues are also known as characteristic roots. Eigenvalues shows variance explained by that particular factor out of the total variance. Ideal Eigen value should be 1. As per the decision rule only those components are considered whose values are greater than 1. Ideal percentage should be more than 50%.

Above table shows also shows the loading of factors which is around 70.33%. Hence the factor extraction method has loaded sufficient factors.

Table also presents the contribution of each factor in percentage.



The scree plot is used to determine the number of factors to retain in an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) or principal components to keep in a principal component analysis (PCA). Above graph shows that, only those factors are considered whose values is < 1.

**Rotated Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>**

| Sr. No | Components   | Component |      |      |      |      |
|--------|--|-----------|------|------|------|------|
|        |  | 1         | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    |
| 1      | I am Satisfied with the services provider by Builders                                  |           |      |      |      |      |
| 2      | I am satisfied with the Pricing of Residential Property                                |           | .684 |      |      |      |
| 3      | I am satisfied with after Sales services provided by builder                           |           |      |      | .628 |      |
| 4      | Do You Satisfied With Discounts Provided By Builders on Residential Property           |           | .884 |      |      |      |
| 5      | I Agree With Builders Booking Amount Non-Refundable Policy                             |           |      |      |      | .622 |
| 6      | Do you satisfied With Amenities Provided by Builders                                   |           |      | .667 |      |      |
| 7      | I agree with Price Hikes by Builders on Residential Property after Every Month/Quarter |           | .834 |      |      |      |
| 8      | I am happy with Construction Quality of the builder                                    |           |      | .850 |      |      |
| 9      | Location is an important element while booking the property                            |           |      |      |      |      |
| 10     | I usually compare the prices with other builder before purchasing the property         |           |      | .615 |      |      |
| 11     | Maintenance of Society is an important parameter for me                                |           |      |      |      | .775 |
| 12     | I get the possession as per the commitment given by builder                            |           |      |      |      |      |
| 13     | I calculate Appreciation rate of Current Location while purchasing the property        |           |      |      | .837 |      |

|    |  |      |  |  |  |  |
|----|--|------|--|--|--|--|
| 14 | Returns on Investment is also important Parameter While purchasing the property  | .776 |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | I am happy with the Safety Features Provided by Builders   | .628 |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | Connectivity of Project (metro stations, hospitals, bus stops, etc.) is important for Me while purchasing the property | .798 |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | USP’s (unique selling proposition) of Project attracts me to purchase the property                                     | .801 |  |  |  |  |

"Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization."

The data collected for analysis holds all the assumptions of Exploratory Factor Analysis. In Factor- 1, the variables 14, 15, 16 & 17 have high loadings with values 0.776, 0.628, 0.798 and 0.801. These variables are ROI, safety, connectivity and USP (unique selling proposition). Therefore, Factor- 1 can be interpreted as a combination of ‘Seating should be comfortable for four a ROI, safety, connectivity and USP (unique selling proposition). Hence FACTOR 1 can be named as. “Affordability”.

In the rotated factor Matrix, we noticed that variables 2, 4 and 6 have loadings 0.684, 0.884 and 0.834 on Factor 2 respectively. This suggests that Factor 2 is a combination of these three variables.

This Factor 2 can be interpreted as a combination of ‘price satisfaction (VAR 1), ‘discounts and offers (VAR2)’ and ‘price hikes’ (VAR3). The suitable phrase, which captures the essence of the all three original variables, which combine to form the underlying concept or ‘Factor’. In this case Factor-2 can be named as “Price Fluctuation”.

In Factor 3, the variables 6, 8 and 10 have moderate loadings 0.667, 0.850 and 0.615 on Factor-3.This indicates that Factor- 3 is a combination of these three variables.

Therefore, Factor- 3 can be interpreted as a combination of ‘satisfaction through amenities’ (VAR6), ‘Construction quality’ (VAR8) and ‘Price Comparison’ (VAR8). Hence Factor 3 can be named as "Competitive Purchasing".

In Factor 4, only two variables are loaded with mediocre value 0.628 and 0.837. This indicates that Factor- 4 is a combination of these two variables.

Therefore, Factor- 4 can be interpreted as a combination of after sales service (VAR3) and ‘Appreciation rate of Current Location ’(VAR13) . Hence Factor 4 can be named as "Pre & Post Purchase Evaluation ".

In Factor 5, only two variables are loaded with mediocre value 0.622 and 0.775 this indicates that Factor- 5 is a combination of these two variables. Therefore, Factor- 5 can be interpreted as a combination of developers policies (VAR5) and ‘Apartment maintenance’ (VAR11) . Hence Factor 4 can be named as "Regulatory pricing".

**Summary**

| Sr. No | Variables/ Components | Factor   | Name of the Factor (as per researchers conviction) | Variance Explained |
|--------|-----------------------|----------|--|--------------------|
| 1      | 14, 15, 16 & 17       | Factor 1 | Affordability                                      | 17.646             |
| 2      | 2, 4 and 6            | Factor 2 | Price Fluctuation                                  | 16.508             |

|                     |             |          |                        |               |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>3</b>            | 6, 8 and 10 | Factor 3 | Competitive Purchasing | 14.022        |
| <b>4</b>            | 3 & 13      | Factor 4 | Purchase Evaluation    | 11.328        |
| <b>5</b>            | 5 & 11      | Factor 5 | Regulatory pricing     | 10.828        |
| <b>Cumulative %</b> |             |          |                        | <b>70.330</b> |

## Discussion

The study examined five critical factors influencing purchasing intentions for residential properties in Pune's urban region: **affordability, price fluctuations, competitive purchasing, purchase evaluation, and regulatory pricing**. Each factor plays a distinct role in shaping buyer behavior, and their interplay determines the final purchase decision.

**Affordability** emerged as the most significant factor, directly impacting purchase intentions. A majority of respondents emphasized that budget constraints and loan accessibility were primary concerns. This aligns with prior studies (Gupta & Singh, 2022; Deshpande & Patil, 2023), which highlight that middle-income buyers prioritize cost-effectiveness over luxury features. Pune's real estate market, though growing, faces affordability challenges due to rising property prices in prime locations like Hinjewadi and Kharadi. Developers offering flexible payment plans or subsidized housing schemes could attract more buyers.

**Price fluctuations** introduced uncertainty in purchase decisions. Many respondents expressed hesitation due to unpredictable market trends, particularly post-pandemic. Research by Kulkarni and Rao (2023) supports this finding, indicating that volatile pricing leads to deferred purchases as buyers anticipate potential price corrections. However, government interventions such as stamp duty reductions temporarily stabilized demand (Sharma & Nair, 2022). Real estate firms must adopt transparent pricing strategies to mitigate buyer apprehensions.

**Competitive purchasing** behavior was observed among investors and end-users. In high-demand areas, buyers faced bidding wars or limited inventory, accelerating decision-making. This trend correlates with studies on urban housing markets (Mehta & Iyer, 2023), where scarcity of quality properties in well-connected localities intensifies competition. Real estate agents reported that buyers often compromise on secondary features (e.g., interior finishes) to secure a property in preferred locations. Developers can leverage this by highlighting exclusivity and fast-selling inventory in marketing campaigns.

**Purchase evaluation** processes varied between first-time buyers and seasoned investors. First-time buyers relied heavily on peer recommendations, online reviews, and builder reputations, whereas investors focused on long-term appreciation potential. This dichotomy reflects findings by Nair and Menon (2022), which underscore the role of trust and perceived risk in real estate transactions. Digital platforms (Magicbricks, 99acres) significantly influenced evaluations, with virtual tours and customer testimonials reducing uncertainty (Rane & Kulkarni, 2022). Enhancing digital engagement and post-sale support can strengthen buyer confidence. Regulatory pricing policies, including RERA compliance and GST implications, indirectly shaped purchase intentions. While RERA boosted transparency (Shah & Desai, 2023), frequent tax revisions created confusion. Respondents familiar with policies felt more

secure, whereas others postponed decisions due to perceived complexity. Simplified buyer education initiatives—such as workshops or chatbots clarifying regulatory costs—could bridge this gap.

## Conclusion

The study reveals that purchasing intentions for residential properties in Pune are driven by a combination of economic, psychological, and regulatory factors. Affordability remains the cornerstone of decision-making, particularly for middle-income buyers. Price fluctuations and competitive purchasing dynamics introduce urgency but also hesitation, necessitating transparent pricing and inventory management from developers. Purchase evaluation relies increasingly on digital tools and trust signals, emphasizing the need for robust online marketing and post-sale engagement. Lastly, regulatory pricing policies, though beneficial, require better dissemination to empower buyers. The findings validate and extend the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) (Ajzen, 1991), demonstrating that perceived behavioral control (affordability, regulations) and subjective norms (competitive pressure, peer influence) significantly impact intentions. They also reinforce the Consumer Decision-Model (Blackwell et al., 2006), particularly the "evaluation of alternatives" stage, where digital and social inputs dominate.

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