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# COVID-19 Pandemic and Adaptive Shopping Patterns: An Insight from Indonesian Consumers

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## Abstract

Although existing studies on consumers typology are extensively conducted, insights on consumers typology in adapting their shopping attitude and behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic remain unexplored. Current studies on consumer responses to the COVID-19 pandemic tend to focus on the following themes: panic buying behaviour, consumer spending and consumer consumption. This study explores a typology of adaptive shopping patterns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The study involved a survey of 465 Indonesian consumers. Principal component analysis is used to identify the variables related to adaptive shopping patterns. Cluster analysis of the factor scores obtained on the adaptive shopping attitude and behaviour revealed the typology of Indonesian shoppers' adaptive patterns. Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) analysis is used to profile the identified clusters based on attitude, behaviour and demographic characteristics. Results revealed five adaptive shopping patterns with substantial differences among them. This study provides in-depth information about the profile of Indonesian shoppers' adaptive patterns that would help retailers in understanding consumers and choosing their target group. The major contribution of this study is providing segmentation on shopping adaptive patterns in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which presents interesting differences compared with previous studies. This study reveals new insights on shoppers' adaptive attitude and behaviour as consumers coped with the pandemic.

## Keywords

Adaptive shopping patterns, attitude, behaviour, COVID-19, Indonesia

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## Introduction

Although many recent studies have been published on consumer behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic, little is known about consumers typology in adapting their shopping behaviour during the virus outbreak, for example, COVID-19 and its impact on panic buying behaviour (Keane & Neal, 2020; Loxton et al., 2020), the link between COVID-19 and consumers' response on spending (Andersen et al., 2020a, 2020b; Chronopoulos et al., 2020), COVID-19 and its impact on household food wastage (Jribi et al., 2020), food supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic (Hobbs, 2020), households' consumption and debt response to an outbreak using transaction-level household data (Baker et al., 2020) and the economic impact of COVID-19 and the financial vulnerability of workers who have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 pandemic (Mogaji, 2020).

Since the 1950s, numerous studies have reported different types of typologies and shoppers' profile based on, for instance, store attributes (Ganesh et al., 2007; Karande & Ganesh, 2000; Lumpkin, 1985; Reynolds et al., 2002), shoppers' motivation (Ali et al., 2020; Arnold & Reynolds, 2003; Ganesh et al., 2007; Jarratt, 1996; Kumar & Sadarangani, 2018; Moschis et al., 2004; Stone, 1954), activities-interest-options (AIO) statement (Darden & Reynolds, 1971; Moschis, 1976; Reynolds & Darden, 1972) and online shopping behaviour (Ganesh et al., 2010; Harris et al., 2017; Huseynov & Yildirim, 2019). However, none of such studies classifies consumers based on shopping adaptation during a hard time due to virus outbreak. Furthermore, the studies majority are based on western countries context, while little insights on shoppers' typologies based on consumers in emerging economies.

Attempts to classify shoppers during a hard situation due to macroeconomic factors such as economic crisis or recession also have been conducted, for instance, a study that analyses typology of adaptive shopping patterns in terms of attitudes and behavioural responses during a recession (Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013); a study that examines consumer behaviour in Turkey in response to the recent global economic crisis (Kaytaz & Gul, 2014); and a study that develops segmentation and profile of shopping malls customers typologies in time of hardship (Calvo-Porrall & Lévy-Mangin, 2019; Lambrechts et al., 2017). Based on data from Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS), Frankenberg et al. (1999) conducted a longitudinal survey during the financial crisis in Indonesia between 1997 and 1998 in some dimensions of family and individual well-being such as expenditure patterns, employment and earnings, education, use of healthcare and family planning and health status. However, the impact of an epidemic outbreak is qualitatively different compared to other macroeconomic factors (Jung et al., 2016). Therefore, this study intends to explore a typology of shoppers concerning their attitude and behaviour changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Profiling shoppers' adaptive patterns provides practical guidance for retailers to understand their customers better, since shopping typologies serve as a foundation for shoppers' segmentation and targeting strategies. From a theoretical point of view, this study contributes to enrich the literature on shoppers' typology based on their attitudes and behaviour changes or adaptation due to the COVID-19 pandemic that currently remains unexplored. After all, little is known about how Indonesian consumers respond, in terms of their shopping patterns, to a pandemic on a scientific basis and across a large number of households and geographies. Hence, the main research objective is to explore the shopping typologies of Indonesian consumers based on their attitude and behaviour in adapting to COVID-19 by analysing the factors such as panic buying, reduction in consumption, price sensitivity, shifting to e-grocery shopping, health consciousness and willingness to make charity donations.

The rest of the article is organized as follows: the first section is the introduction section. In the second section, based on the previous studies, we discuss the theoretical underpinnings of shopper typologies based on shoppers' attitude and behaviour during a hard time. The third section, discussing

the methodology, outlines the methods of testing our proposed shopper typologies. The empirical results of the research are reflected in the fourth section, followed by a discussion. Lastly, we present our conclusion, practical implications and suggestions for future research.

## Review of Literature

### *Shopping Adaptation During Hard Times*

Empirical studies show that consumer behaviour changes drastically during a crisis (e.g., recessions). Some studies show that consumers change their buying patterns during hard and stressful times due to economic crisis (Ang, 2001; Frankenberg et al., 1999; Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013; Kaytaz & Gul, 2014; Sharma & Sonwalkar, 2013) and virus outbreak (Baker et al., 2020; Forster & Tang, 2005; Hobbs, 2020; Hui & Wan, 2009; Jribi et al., 2020; Jung et al., 2016). It has been well acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic affects individuals' psychological responses such as anxiety and fear that will affect consumer behaviour (Pakpour et al., 2020). This leads to adaptation in construct creation to determine shoppers' typology in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this study, consumer behaviour and attitude related to shopping adaptations during the pandemic covers the following issues: panic buying, reduction in consumption, reduction in food wastage, price sensitivity, shifting to e-grocery shopping, health consciousness and willingness to make charity donations.

### *Panic Buying Phenomenon*

During the COVID-19 outbreak, as the number of cases increases, consumers radically alter their spending on some categories such as retail, credit card spending and food items (Baker et al., 2020). This effect demand-side shock on the food supply chain including consumer panic buying (Hobbs, 2020). Panic buying leads to consumers becoming pantry stockers, since the pantry may require restocking for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic lasts. Using the risk attitude and risk perception factors, panicked consumers can be classified as those who have a high risk attitude and a high risk perception. In an immediate stressful situation, this kind of consumers remain high risk-averse and will try to avoid the risk. These consumers tend to overreact in the context of a crisis. During the pandemic, panic attacks can lead to consumer egoism such as panic buying (Nicomedes & Avila, 2020). Investigating this issue is expected to provide insights into how households stockpiling and spending reactions play a role in shopping decisions.

### *Reduction and Shift in Consumption*

**The sentence should be:** Covering the basic needs such as rent, mortgage payment, groceries, utilities and medications in recessions to be concerned for both employed and unemployed consumers (Starr, 2011). In this case, consumers are suggested to consider spending and fulfilling needs versus wants (Wilson, 2020). Consumers may respond to unemployment and fall in incomes in several ways such as spend their wealth, especially liquid assets, or borrow in financial markets to mitigate the income effects of unemployment and, hence, resulting in smooth consumption (Kaytaz & Gul, 2014). Employed consumers face uncertainty about being able to retain their jobs and current salary level, and this leads



to a reduction in consumption of discretionary goods (Kaytaz & Gul, 2014). In their study of the Indonesian crisis, Frankenberg et al. (1999) find that consumers allocate a significant amount of their expenditure to food staples, like rice. The expenditure on non-essentials, as well as on health and education declined, and the poorest households suffered the most.

Ang et al. (2000) study consumers from several Asian countries during the Asian crisis. They find that Asian consumers do more comparative shopping, delay purchases of big-ticket items, place more emphasis on product durability and functionality, switch to lower end and local brands and buy at discount stores more often. While Korean consumers tried to maintain expenditures on food, education and health, they reduced expenditure on luxuries during the 1997 Asian crisis (Kang & Sawada, 2008). Consumers also react by focusing on buying necessities, switching to cheaper brands and having a more rational view on promotion. They start to compare different products and select based on price compromising quality (Nistorescu & Puiu, 2009). Based on the portray of consumer behaviour during the crisis, it is also expected that Indonesian consumers will react in similar ways regarding reducing and shifting consumption. This type of consumers can be classified as 'discretionary thrift: even the rich people are economizing, although they don't have to. They revealed their dissatisfaction with excess consumption. They started to recycle, buy used goods and teach their children simple and traditional values' (Sharma & Sonwalkar, 2013, p. 41).

### *Price Sensitivity*

It is believed that panic buying behaviours due to the COVID-19 outbreak tend to be a short-run problem, whereas in the long run, demand-driven effects on food supply chains will arise from a decrease in consumer incomes. This will impact demand as well as shifts across product categories; hence, we can expect consumers to be more price-sensitive and to shift away from more expensive goods (Hobbs, 2020). When uncertainty in jobs and wealth increases and causes a decline in income, especially during a recession, consumers normally become more concerned on price, since it is likely to be an important consideration when consumers make a decision (Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013).

### *Shifting to E-grocery Shopping*

Studies on how consumers perform online grocery shopping during the COVID-19 outbreak are relatively few, while the majority of studies tend to focus on typology of online shoppers (Ganesh et al., 2010; Harris et al., 2017; Huseynov & Yıldırım, 2019; Kau et al., 2003). A study to identify and profile the characteristics of potential users of the online supermarket during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in Singapore has been conducted (Hui & Wan, 2009). Using the technology acceptance model (TAM), the study investigates the core aspects associated with technology usage. Online grocery sales in Singapore increased significantly in 2003, especially in the early half of the year during the SARS outbreak. Another study investigates the role online shopping played during the SARS endemic crisis (Forster & Tang, 2005). Using data from Hong Kong's largest online supermarket, the study reveals that demand for online supermarket increased during SARS outbreak in response to the growing fear of infection.

### *Health Consciousness*

According to Nicomedes and Avila (2020, p. 17), one effect of COVID-19 is health consciousness, and it can be defined as 'a dominant way of thinking about personal habits from the diet to the lifestyle one has such as sleeping patterns and exercise'. Other scholars (Basu & Dutta, 2008; Dutta-Bergman, 2004) defined health consciousness as the degree to which individuals care about their health. Therefore, there is no surprise that during the pandemic, health consciousness drives people to perform home-based exercise (Pu et al., 2020). COVID-19 has forced consumers to watch their health and well-being, and this effect on the demand for health and wellness products has been growing abnormally fast since the outbreak (Nielsen Company, 2020). Consumers may reprioritize health, safety and availability in their consideration of a product and, as a result, the level of consumers' health consciousness. Boosting the immune system is a way to prevent people from being infected, and it is done by checking their health status simultaneously and eating healthy foods (Nicomedes & Avila, 2020). Consumers' health consciousness is primarily discussed in studies related to consumers' intention to purchase healthy products such as organic food (Chen, 2009; Kriwy & Mecking, 2012; Michaelidou & Hassan, 2008).

### *Willingness to Donate*

Current studies on consumers' willingness to donate to charities during the COVID-19 pandemic have been conducted; however, none of the studies links charitable giving or donation with shoppers' typology. Examples of studies that focus on an online experiment to test whether human generosity has changed during the early COVID-19 pandemic (Branas-Garza et al., 2020), intrinsic motivations of attitude towards online donation for those affected by COVID-19 (Bin-Nashwan et al., 2020) and an experiment to test prosocial behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic (Abel & Brown, 2020) are available.

Based on a behavioural perspective, the pandemic can be seen as a communal action problem in which the success of the group in combating the pandemic relies on individual action (Branas-Garza et al., 2020). Using such an analogy, it has been proven that the success of donation or charitable giving of a community may depend on individual solidarity or prosocial behaviour to help others affected by COVID-19. In this sense, financial contributions (monetary donation) from individuals affect the survival of charities. Evidence shows that consumers tend to less caring for others; therefore, they tend to avoid ethical buying and charitable giving as an adaptive shopping pattern during a difficult time like an economic crisis (Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013). In the same vein, in this study, the variable of willingness to make a monetary donation is also used to portray whether such behaviour is adapted during the pandemic.

### **Objectives**

The objective of the study is to classify consumers based upon a variety of shopping attitudes and behaviours related to COVID-19 pandemic sensitivity. The adoption of the approach to classifying shoppers follows Hampson and McGoldrick (2013) who argue consumer decision-making and shopping are multifaceted activities that include several distinct attitudinal and behaviour dimensions. Relevant constructs that are used to explore the typology of shoppers during the COVID-19 pandemic consist of panic buying (Baker et al., 2020; Keane & Neal, 2020; Singh & Rakshit, 2020), reduction in consumption

(Ang et al., 2000; Baker et al., 2020; Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013), reduction in food wastage (Jribi et al., 2020), price sensitivity (Ang et al., 2000; Baker et al., 2020; Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013), shifting to e-grocery shopping (Forster & Tang, 2005; Hui & Wan, 2009), health consciousness (Cullen et al., 2020; Hiremath et al., 2020; Roy et al., 2020) and willingness to make a monetary donation (Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013).

## **The Rationale of the Study**

This study serves its rationality in the following ways. First, currently, there is a lack of empirical studies that classify consumers' shopping adaptation during a crisis due to a global pandemic. Previous studies of consumers' shopping adaptation commonly dealt with global economic crisis or recessions. This study contributes to the literature by providing new empirical evidence on classifying consumers based upon a variety of shopping attitudes and behaviours related to COVID-19 pandemic sensitivity. It is also expected that this study provide insights that may be useful for retailers to understand their customers better, since shopping typologies serve as a foundation for shoppers' segmentation and targeting strategies. Second, it confirms that consumer decision-making and shopping are multifaceted activities that include several distinct attitudinal and behaviour dimensions.

## **Methodology**

### *Sample Frame and Data Source*

Using a quantitative approach, data in this study are collected through a questionnaire-based survey. The following are the characteristics of the sample used in this study: the decision-maker in a household, mature, married or had married experiences and regularly buy grocery products. To comply with the physical distancing policy that is implemented by the Indonesian government, questionnaires are distributed online. The questionnaires are distributed via several social media platforms and mailing list that cover a wide range of Indonesian consumers. All questions are assessed using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = 'strongly disagree' to 5 = 'strongly agree'. Using a purposive sampling technique, decision-makers in households will be selected, since they normally make shopping decisions.

### *Variables and Their Operational Definition*

The definition of variables used in this study to draw operational definition can be explained as follows. Panic buying can be defined as 'when consumers buy oddly bulky volumes of a product in anticipation of, or after, a disaster or perceived disaster, or in anticipation of a larger price increase of scarcity' (Singh & Rakshit, 2020). Hence, three questionnaire items used in this study are statements to confirm any increased volume of groceries bought during the early COVID-19 pandemic.

Reduction in consumption and wastefulness are classified as general reactions of Asian consumers during a financial crisis (Ang et al., 2000). A recent study was conducted in Tunisia during the COVID-19 pandemic based on an online survey (Jribi et al., 2020), and this study borrows the construct of Jribi et al.'s (2020) study. In the study, four items of the questionnaire were used to investigate consumers' adaptive change related to reducing consumption and wastefulness.



Construct related to consumers' shifting from traditional (brick and mortar) to online shopping is derived from two relevant studies conducted during the SARS epidemic in Asia (Forster & Tang, 2005; Hui & Wan, 2009). In the questionnaires of these studies, eight items were proposed to confirm shifting action and motivation for using e-groceries.

Health consciousness is one of the most important issues that is discussed in many COVID-19 based studies. Questionnaires used in this study are taken from previous studies such as Cullen et al. (2020) and Roy et al. (2020). Seven items related to health consciousness are proposed in this study, while the rest of the constructs are derived from Hampson and McGoldrick (2013).

### *Principal Component Analysis*

Exploratory factor analysis is performed using principal component analysis (PCA) with Varimax rotation to determine the potential groupings of the items. According to Hair et al. (2014), factors with eigenvalues greater than 1.0 and items with rotated factor loadings of 0.5 or higher are retained, while items that do not meet these criteria are removed. Then the Barlett's test of sphericity and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure are tested.

### *Cluster Analysis*

A two-step cluster analysis is developed to identify consumer groups. This analysis combines a hierarchical cluster analysis through Ward's method, which is subsequently followed by a non-hierarchical *k*-means clustering method to optimize the cluster solutions. Ward's method was conducted to identify consumer groups. In this analysis, the number of segments was determined by the agglomeration coefficients (Hair et al., 2014); and a cluster solution will emerge as the most appropriate. Then, the total cluster solution is determined based on the number of individuals in each cluster.

### *MANOVA Analysis*

In order to validate the cluster solutions, a MANOVA test is conducted on the entire set of variables to identify the differences among the identified clusters (Hair et al., 2014). Then multivariate test is conducted using Pillai's Trace and Wilks' Lambda. Besides, the identified clusters are examined through multiple comparisons with Tukey's post hoc test to examine the between-group differences in all the dimensions, providing validation of the results from the cluster results. Then, attitude-, behaviour- and demographic-related variables are considered to better describe the main characteristics of consumer clusters.

## **Analysis**

### *Sample Characteristics*

Table 1 presents the characteristics of respondents of the study, which consist of gender, status, age, religion, role in the family, income, education, jobs, current residence and work from home (WFH)



status. The respondents' characteristics can be summarized as follows: of a total of 465 respondents, it turned out that men respondents outnumbered women (53.3%); 80% of the total respondents have married status; mature respondents (50 years old and above) dominate in terms of age (37.8%); the majority of respondents hold Islam religion (90.8%); nearly half of the respondents have a role as a husband in the family (48.6%); in terms of monthly income, respondents having income in the range of IDR 6–10 million and IDR 1–5 million are in majority, that is, 30.5% and 28.2%, respectively; nearly 46% of total respondents have a postgraduate level of education, that is, hold a master's degree; interestingly, around 31% of the total respondents are civil servants, while, nearly, 28% of them work in the private sector; unfortunately, the respondents' residence is not evenly distributed, most of them live in Java Island; and lastly, around 70% of the total respondents claim that they experience WFH (70.1%).

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Respondents.

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	248	53.3
Female	217	46.7
Status		
Single	77	16.6
Married	372	80.0
Divorced	16	3.4
Age (years)		
18–25	37	8.0
26–30	67	14.4
31–40	75	16.1
41–50	110	23.7
More than 50	176	37.8
Religion		
Islam	422	90.8
Protestant	19	4.1
Catholic	22	4.7
Hindu	2	0.4
Roles in family		
Husband	226	48.6
Wife	157	33.8
Son/daughter	82	17.6
Income		
1–5 million (IDR)	131	28.2
6–10 million (IDR)	142	30.5
11–15 million (IDR)	61	13.1
16–20 million (IDR)	50	10.8

(Table 1 continued)

(Table 1 continued)

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
More than 20 million (IDR)	81	17.4
Jobs		
Civil servant	146	31.4
State-owned enterprise	16	3.4
Private	129	27.7
Entrepreneurs	57	12.3
Others	117	25.2
Education		
High school	24	5.16
Diploma	5	1.08
Undergraduate	146	31.40
Postgraduate	212	45.59
Doctor	78	16.77
Current residence (Island)		
Java	365	78.5
Bali/NTB/NTT	18	3.9
Sumatera	35	7.5
Sulawesi	19	4.1
Ambon/Maluku	0	0
Kalimantan	5	1.1
Papua	2	0.4
Overseas	21	4.5
Work from home status		
Yes	326	70.11
No	139	29.89
The pandemic affects income decline		
Yes	236	50.75
No	229	49.25
The pandemic has an impact on spending adjustments		
Yes	390	83.87
No	75	16.13

**Source:** The authors.

**Note:** NTB stands for Nusa Tenggara Barat (a province name in Indonesia) and NTT stands for Nusa Tenggara Timur (a province name in Indonesia).

### *Principal Component Analysis*

An exploratory factor analysis was performed using PCA with Varimax rotation to determine the potential groupings of the 34 assessed items. Table 2 presents the results of exploratory factor analysis on adaptive

shopping behaviour. The results show that 26 items out of 34 loadings on 5 meaningful factors jointly account for 50.5% of the explained variances. In addition, measures of sampling adequacy indicated that the correlation matrix for a 26-item scale was suitable. Then the Barlett's test of sphericity ( $X^2 = 6233.303$ ;  $df = 561$ ;  $p < 0.000$ ) was applied, and the Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin measure (0.865) indicates a value of sampling adequacy.

**Table 2.** Exploratory Factor Analysis on Adaptive Shopping Attitude and Behaviour.

Factor Labels and Statement	Mean	Factor Loading	Eigen Values	Percentage of Variance	Alpha Coefficient
Price sensitive	3.22		7.516	22.11	0.891
PRICE_SENSI1		0.728			
PRICE_SENSI2		0.743			
PRICE_SENSI3		0.819			
PRICE_SENSI4		0.778			
PRICE_SENSI5		0.833			
E-shop shifting	3.65		3.556	10.46	0.781
ESHOP1		0.713			
ESHOP2		0.634			
ESHOP3		0.672			
ESHOP4		0.783			
ESHOP6		0.701			
ESHOP7		0.680			
Health and society consciousness	3.95		2.920	8.60	0.764
HEALTH1		0.520			
HEALTH2		0.568			
HEALTH3		0.552			
HEALTH4		0.740			
HEALTH5		0.745			
DONATE2		0.589			
DONATE4		0.521			
Reduce and consumption shifting	3.85		1.699	5.00	0.781
REDUCE1		0.589			
REDUCE2		0.506			
REDUCE3		0.706			
SHIFTING1		0.675			
SHIFTING2		0.551			
SHIFTING3		0.569			
Panic buying	2.93		1.469	4.32	0.743
PANIC_BUYING1		0.637			
PANIC_BUYING2		0.669			

**Source:** The authors.

The first factor relates to consumers who find better prices of products or deals or discounts during the COVID-19 pandemic; hence, we can label it as *price-sensitive*. The second factor deals with online shopping activities during the pandemic. Such consumers do online shopping more frequently during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they prefer this shopping method due to the fact that it offers a wide range of benefits. Hence, we can classify them as *e-shop shifting*. The third factor concerns consumers who possess health consciousness and care for those who suffered most due to the pandemic, and this led them to support them by donating. Hence, this factor is called *health and society consciousness*. The fourth factor is termed *reduce and consumption shifting*, since it is related to any activity to reduce and shift the consumption as an adaptive effort during the pandemic. The last factor is labelled as *panic buying*; it represents the consumers who feel worried, and it affects their decision to buy groceries in bulk volume as an adaptive effort during the pandemic.

### *Comparison of Clusters on Shopping Adaptation*

Subsequently, to segment the Indonesian shoppers, a hierarchical cluster analysis was conducted across the component values. Homogeneous segments of Indonesian shoppers should be identified based on similar shopping behaviour and attitude. Initial cluster analysis employed a single linkage method to identify outlying observations and a five-cluster solution emerged as the most appropriate. The selected five-cluster solution was based on an interpretation of the dendrogram and agglomeration schedules of the hierarchical cluster process. Then, a *K*-means clustering analysis with the initial seeds provided by the hierarchical clustering solution was conducted to obtain the final clusters. In addition, the examination of the *F*-ratios obtained through the MANOVA analysis indicates that the five clusters identified differ significantly.

Mean factor scores and pairwise contrasts of adaptive shopping attitude and behaviour are displayed in Table 3. The five variables, panic buying, reduce and shift consumption, price-sensitive, E-shop shifting and health and social consciousness differed significantly across the clusters. Post hoc analysis revealed that all pairwise contrasts were significant. In order to derive further insights into the Indonesian consumers' segments, the clusters were compared on their demographic characteristics (gender, status, age, role in the family, monthly income and education). Table 4 indicates that there were significant demographic differences across the five clusters for status, age and monthly income. No significant differences were observed between the clusters in terms of gender, role in the family and education; hence, they are not included in the table.

#### **Cluster 1: Rational, health and social consciousness adapters**

This group of consumers makes up 22.37% of the sample ( $n = 104$ ), and they are characterized by their high adaptation in reducing and shifting consumption as well as preserving their health and willingness to donate money to help others affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The consumers who are more than 50 years old (seniors) account for 42.31% of the sample. Around 85% of the consumers in the group have married status. This group of consumers tend to have a higher level of agreement on health and social consciousness scales. In terms of monthly income, more than 50% of consumers in this group have middle to low income (IDR 10 million or lower). Therefore, there is no surprise if they tend to adapt their shopping behaviour by reducing and shifting consumption.



**Cluster 2: Non-panic, young and all-around adapters**

This consumer segment represents 13.12% of the sample ( $n = 61$ ), and it is the lowest cluster in the number of consumers. This consumer group is characterized by higher values of the mean of all variables, except for panic buying. This means that the consumers show much higher levels of agreement with all the adaptation scales but lower agreement on the panic buying scale. In terms of consumer's age, the proportion of consumers who are 50 years old or younger is around 67%, while the rest of them are senior consumers.

**Cluster 3: Wealthy, young and non-price-sensitive adapters**

This consumer segment represents 22.15% of the sample ( $n = 103$ ). This group of consumers is dominated by younger consumers (50 years old or younger), and it accounts for nearly 76% of the sample. Around 53% of the consumers have a mid to high level of monthly income, that is, IDR 11 million or higher. Such a background may drive them to be non-price sensitive consumers. This group of consumers tend to have a lower mean on price-sensitive variable than the rest of the variables.

**Cluster 4: Minimum adapters**

This cluster represents 17.42% of the sample ( $n = 81$ ). This group of consumers is unique, since the consumers in this cluster tend to show disagreement with all the adaptation scales. Senior consumers account for 45% of this cluster. Nearly, 52% of the consumers in this segment are from low a level of financial income background. This type of cluster can also be found in a previous study conducted by Hampson and McGoldrick (2013), and they termed the cluster as 'minimum changers', as they show net disagreement with all the adaptation scales.

**Cluster 5: Thrifty, health and social consciousness adapters**

This cluster represents 24.95% of the sample ( $n = 116$ ), and it is the highest cluster in the number of consumers. In this group, the consumers tend to agree with reducing and shifting consumption, price-sensitive, health and society consciousness scales. The majority of consumers in this cluster (around 72%) have low monthly income, that is, IDR 10 million or lower. Their financial background may drive them to be thrifty consumers.

**Discussion**

This study explores the shopping adaptive patterns of Indonesian consumers in during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not been studied so far. Our findings are in line with previous studies of shoppers' typology in the context of a crisis (Calvo-Porrá & Lévy-Mangin, 2019; Hampson & McGoldrick, 2013), which shows that consumers cannot be seen as a homogenous group, but it consists of multifaceted activities that include several distinct attitudinal and behavioural dimensions.

The major contribution of the present study is providing segmentation on shopping adaptive patterns in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which presents interesting differences compared with previous studies on shoppers' typologies. This study reveals new insights on shoppers' adaptive

**Table 3.** Results for Five-cluster Group Solution Based on Adaptive Shopping Attitude and Behaviour.

Adaptive Shopping Attitude and Behaviour	Indicators	Cluster Means					Tukey Test	
		Rational, Health and Social Consciousness Adapters (n = 104)	Non-panic, Young and All-around Adapters (N = 61)	Wealthy, Young and Non-price-sensitive Adapters (n = 103)	Minimum Adapters (n = 81)	Thrifty, Health and Social Consciousness Adapters (n = 116)	F-value	Sig. (p ≤ 0.05)
Panic buying	PBI	2.28	3.54	3.89	2.51	3.96	101.769	0.000
	PB2	1.71	2.41	3.42	2.4	3.18	73.025	0.000
	RSC1	3.59	4.05	3.33	2.81	3.71	21.307	0.000
Reduce and shift consumption	RSC2	3.47	4.10	3.53	2.64	3.72	37.687	0.000
	RSC3	3.94	4.34	3.88	3.01	4.14	44.837	0.000
	RSC4	4.27	4.69	4.22	3.57	4.47	30.031	0.000
	RSC5	4.14	4.66	3.86	3.42	4.21	29.208	0.000
	RSC6	4.10	4.43	3.86	3.35	4.17	31.209	0.000
	PS1	3.46	4.31	3.02	2.51	4.03	87.480	0.000
Price sensitive	PS2	3.08	4.13	2.55	2.30	3.63	96.219	0.000
	PS3	3.11	4.10	2.62	2.19	3.54	87.942	0.000
	PS4	3.32	4.25	2.81	2.22	3.97	117.963	0.000
	PS5	3.19	4.13	2.66	2.21	3.75	102.254	0.000
	ESHOP1	3.33	4.13	3.71	2.84	3.29	19.209	0.000
E-shop shifting	ESHOP2	3.43	4.39	3.89	2.99	3.47	29.801	0.000
	ESHOP3	3.40	4.34	3.56	3.09	3.30	25.830	0.000
	ESHOP4	3.79	4.43	3.96	3.46	3.35	26.235	0.000
	ESHOP5	3.57	4.43	3.96	3.46	3.53	21.083	0.000
	ESHOP6	3.57	4.56	4.00	3.40	3.59	26.177	0.000
	HSC1	3.87	4.44	3.84	3.49	3.91	12.498	0.000

(Table 3 continued)

(Table 3 continued)

Adaptive Shopping Attitude and Behaviour	Indicators	Cluster Means					Tukey Test	
		Rational, Health and Social Consciousness Adapters (n = 104)	Non-panic, Young and All-around Adapters (N = 61)	Wealthy, Young and Non-price-sensitive Adapters (n = 103)	Minimum Adapters (n = 81)	Thrifty, Health and Social Consciousness Adapters (n = 116)	F-value	Sig. (p ≤ 0.05)
	HSC2	3.54	4.15	3.52	3.16	3.70	13.073	0.000
	HSC3	4.29	4.72	4.32	4.02	4.27	11.829	0.000
	HSC4	3.90	4.46	3.68	3.40	4.09	22.811	0.000
	HSC5	4.07	4.54	3.91	3.58	4.13	18.582	0.000
	HSC6	4.39	4.84	4.31	4.00	4.28	17.525	0.000
	HSC7	3.56	4.13	3.54	3.38	3.58	5.947	0.000

Source: The authors.

**Table 4.** Results for Five-cluster Group Solution Based on Demographics.

Variables	Indicators	Cluster Means					Tukey test	
		Rational, Health and Social Consciousness Adapters (n = 104)	Non-panic, Young and All-around Adapters (N = 61)	Wealthy, Young and Non-price-sensitive Adapters (n = 103)	Minimum Adapters (n = 81)	Thrifty, Health and Social Consciousness Adapters (n = 116)	F-value	Sig. (p ≤ 0.05)
Status	Not married	8.65	19.67	21.36	19.75	15.52	2.341	0.050
	Married	85.58	77.05	75.73	79.01	81.03		
	Divorced	5.77	3.28	2.91	1.23	3.45		
Age (years)	18–25	2.88	14.75	10.68	7.41	6.90	3.008	0.018
	26–30	12.50	13.11	18.45	14.81	12.93		
	31–40	13.46	11.48	17.48	19.75	17.24		
	41–50	28.85	27.87	29.13	12.35	19.83		
	More than 50	42.31	32.79	24.27	45.68	43.10		
Income (IDR millions/month)	1–5	27.88	29.51	22.33	24.69	35.34	3.89	0.016
	6–10	28.85	36.07	24.27	27.16	37.07		
	11–15	15.38	9.84	16.50	19.75	5.17		
	16–20	10.58	14.75	14.56	6.17	8.62		
	More than 20	17.31	9.84	22.33	22.22	13.79		

Source: The authors.



attitude and behaviour as consumers coped with the pandemic; for instance, consumers who are more rational and economic and more health-conscious have a greater willingness to donate and to adopt online shopping. Younger consumers who are clustered in 'non-panic, young and all-around adapters' and 'wealthy, young and non-price sensitive adapters' tend to implement all the variables to adapt their shopping attitudes and behaviour. While, older consumers from 'rational, health and social consciousness adapters' and 'thrifty, health and social consciousness adapters' clusters being more rational and economic, as well as, more preserve their health and greater willingness to help others affected by the pandemic.

### **Managerial Implications**

This study provides more detailed and in-depth information about the profile of Indonesian shoppers that would help retailers in understanding consumers and choosing their target group. The identified clusters also present challenges and opportunities for retailers to develop marketing strategies, as each cluster may require a different marketing approach. Two clusters (i.e., 'rational, health and social consciousness adapters' and 'thrifty, health and social consciousness adapters') report being more rational and economic. This may create opportunities for retailers to present shoppers with bargain offers in-store, and it is expected to help stores build volume and share. The two clusters also report being more health and socially conscious. This also creates opportunities for retailers to offer more health and wellness products as well as to initiate corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme by collecting donations from consumers to help others who are severely affected by the pandemic. The two clusters ('non-panic, young and all-around adapters' and 'wealthy, young and non-price sensitive adapters') that are dominated by younger consumers also present opportunities for retailers. Since consumers in the two clusters show greater willingness to use online shopping, traditional retailers can offer online-based shopping service or mixing 'brick and click' shopping service.

### **Limitations and Future Research**

This research presents limitations that provide avenues for future research. The first relates to the issue of distribution of respondents who are dominated by consumers who live in Java Island; therefore, the generalization of the study findings should be made carefully. Future studies could involve more samples from a wide range of geographical background, which provide a better representation of Indonesian consumers. Second, non-probability sampling method has been used in the study. The scope of this study is limited to attitude, behaviour and demographic profiles, while psychographic clusters have not been explained. Future researchers could examine differences in adaptive shopping during the COVID-19 pandemic based on psychographic segments across different product categories as well as different store formats.

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