

TQR 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Living in a <del>Post</del> Covid World February 16 - 18, 2023

**NSU** Florida

# Cultivating Mutually Beneficial Long-Term Customer and Provider Relationships

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## **Background and Literature Review**



CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGEMENT



HUMAN SATISFACTION



CUSTOMER SATISFACTION



**SALES MODELS** 



**FINANCIAL BENEFITS** 

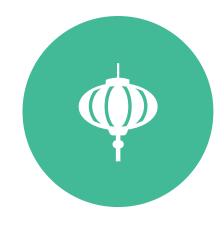
## Methodology: 3 W's



QUALITATIVE MULTIPLE CASE STUDY



16 SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS



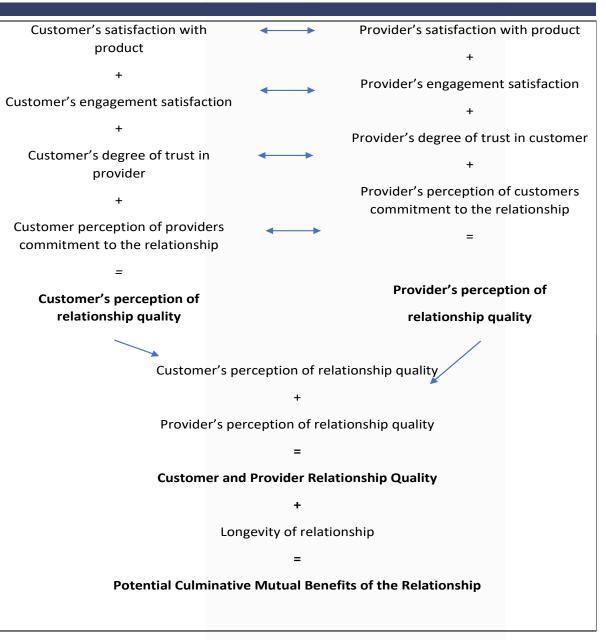
TREASURE COAST REGION OF FLORIDA

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**Key Findings:** Mutual Reciprocity Farmer vs Holistic Hunter Approach Paradigm **Key Findings** Capacity to Adapt to Pain Points Radical Change Public/Inter Industry Reputation

Mutually beneficial long – term customer and provider relationships are built on mutual perceptions of reciprocity/benefits.





A reciprocal model of develop and benefits of long-term customer/provider relationships, Howell and Campbell, 2022.

A holistic approach, by the company's representative, is superior to a procedural approach, for cultivating mutually beneficial long-term customer/provider relationships.



#### **Procedural Approach**

Business to customer/business relationship

Sales process to obtain revenue

Products prioritized for sale, highest margin or

newest

Upselling

#### Holistic approach

Person to person relationship

Partnership leading to increase product sales, growth and long-term customer relationships

Priority on the personal and professional needs and expectations of customers and potential customers

Helpful business solutions, suggesting less expensive products

Two Approaches to Customer Relationship Management, Howell and Campbell, 2022

Emotional "pain points" can harm the ability of business representative to cultivate mutually beneficial long-term customer/provider relationships.



Pain Points / Feelings	Preventative Measures	Corrective Actions
Feeling taken for granted Feeling taken advantage Feeling not appreciated Disappointment Impatience Anxiety Anger Fear General emotionality	Acute awareness of the clients feeling / emotions  Regular reassuring communication and supporting actions to ensure they feel respected, appreciated and secure	Immediate correction of the service or product failure  Deeply respectfully and apologetic communications and supporting actions (gifts, compensation, or privileges) to ensure they feel respected, appreciated and secure

Explanatory Diagram of Customer Pain Emotional Points, Preventative Measures and Corrective Actions, Howell and Campbell, 2022.

Public and inter-industry reputations may affect the ability of business representatives to cultivate mutually beneficial long-term/provider relationships.





The mindset of individual business representatives effects the capacity of the business to adapt to radical change in the operating conditions that could impact customer/provider relationships.



#### **Surrendering**

Assumes the pandemic will end soon. They will just wait, cut back on expenses, and accept the reduced business until the pandemic ends.



- Severely reduced business
- Loss of revenue
- Loss of customers
- No new customers

#### Loser

#### Reluctant

Will reluctantly and temporarily adopt something new while the pandemic is ongoing but intends to immediately return to previous practices when the pandemic ends.



- Some reduced business.
- Unlikely to keep stable revenue.
- Loss of customers
- Unlikely to gain new customers.

#### **Survivor**

#### **Opportunity Seeker**

Sees the crisis as a possible opportunity to adapt to new customer needs and preferences, and thereby grow their business when their competition is floundering.



- Minor loss of previous customers.
- Growth in new customers and new sources of revenue.
- New technology allows:
  - ✓ Expanded business range
  - ✓ Opportunity for new products
  - ✓ Increased efficiency
  - ✓ Lower costs

Winner

Archetypes among business leaders concerning readiness to change, and the outcomes, Howell and Campbell, 2022.

The word *cultivating* was the correct word to describe the best approach to having mutually beneficial long-term customer and provider relationships. Therefore, we recommend that businesses *adopt the symbolic be a farmer, not a hunter paradigm* for customer relations.







### **Discussion**

Combined, these findings constitute a proposed meta-theory of Cultivating Business Relationships (MTCBR) that contributes to a gap in the body of knowledge and has the potential to materially help small business thrive, resulting in positive social and economic benefits to their local communities.

Offer your customers a long-term relationship, then do everything possible to build and maintain it...

- Brian Tracy

## Thank you

QUESTIONS?