

Masters Thesis Dissertation

Mystery Shopping and Customer Satisfaction Surveys -Loyalty Predictors?

> António José Valente Advisor: Professor Charles Waldman

> > Lisbon, 20th March 2007

Chapters

OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS

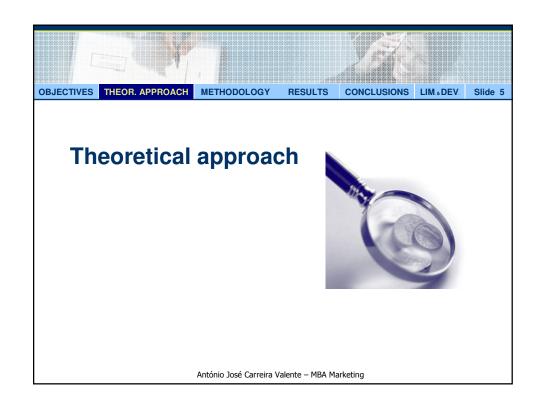
CONCLUSIONS LIM.& DEV.

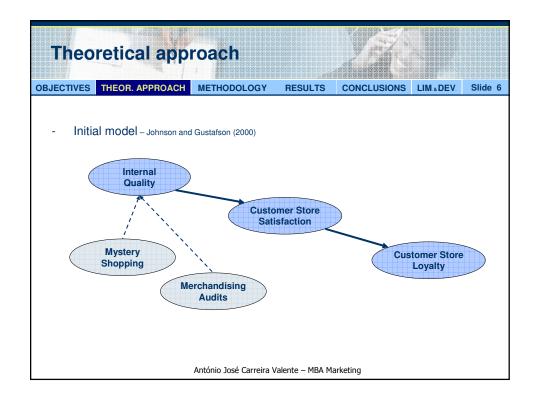
- Objectives
- Theoretical approach
- Methodology data analysis
- **Results**
- **Conclusions**
- Limitations and areas for future development



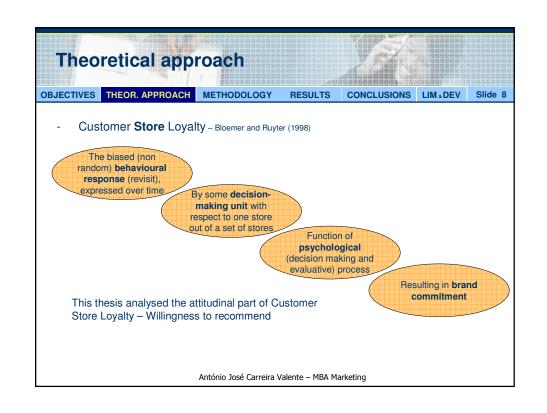




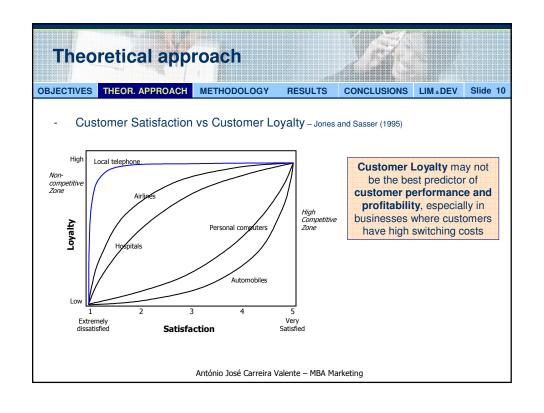




Theoretical approach OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY RESULTS CONCLUSIONS LIM.& DEV. **Customer Loyalty** - "Loyalty includes an individual's **intention to return** to a service provider, as well as intention to recommend² the provider to others – Bendall-Lyon and Powers (2003) **Behavioural Attitudinal** Loyalty1 Loyalty² - Reflect emotional and psychological attachment - Repetitious purchase behaviour Jones and Sasser (1995) - Recency - Customer referrals - Jones and Sasser (1995) - Frequency - Word-of-mouth - Jones and Sasser (1995) - Amount - Likelihood to recommend - Reichheld (2003) - Retention - Expectations of service - Griner (2002) - Longevity Not always imply psychological commitment May indicate whether a customer is at risk May indicate how much is at risk The use of both behaviour and attitude substantially increases the predictive power of loyalty - Pritchard and Howard (1997). António José Carreira Valente - MBA Marketing



Theoretical approach OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY RESULTS CONCLUSIONS LIM. DEV Slide 9 - Customer Satisfaction - "Customer Satisfaction is a mental state which results from the customer's comparison of expectations prior to a purchase with performance perceptions after a purchase" – Soderlung and Vilgon (1999) Perceived performance Expectations Customer satisfaction António José Carreira Valente – MBA Marketing



Theoretical approach

OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS LIM. & DEV.

- Customer Store Satisfaction
 - The outcome of the subjective evaluation that the chosen alternative (the store) meets or exceeds expectations" – Engel et al (1990)

This concept of Store Satisfaction will be used in the quantitative part of the thesis

António José Carreira Valente - MBA Marketing

Theoretical approach

OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS

- Mystery Shopping definition
 - "Mystery Shopping, a form of participant observation, uses researchers to act as customers or potential customers to monitor the quality of processes and procedures used in the delivery of a service" - Wilson (1998a)

Customer Satisfaction surveys

- Address the end product of the production line - Buxton (2000)
- Outcome of a service encounter Wilson (1998a)
- Collects perceptions Wilson (1998a)

Mystery Shopping

- Reveal performance at each stage of service delivery – Buxton (2000)
- Measures the process of a service encounter
- Collects facts Wilson (1998a)

Theoretical approach

OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS LIM. & DEV. Slide 13

- Merchandising Audits definition
 - A formal evaluation conducted to a point of sale (for example, a store), executed by an auditor, which is given the authority to verify whether a group of physical variables / procedures are observed (temperature, cleanliness, store window,

This concept is related to **Store Image**, which is "The complex of consumer's perceptions of a store on different salient attributes – Bloemer and Ruyter (1998)

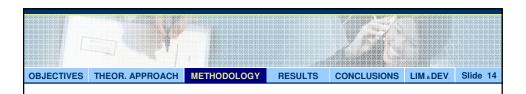
Merchandising Audits

- Auditors identify themselves
- Measure impersonal standards (ex: image standards, materials, ...)

Mystery Shopping:

- Shoppers try to maintain anonym
- Typically measure personal standards (courtesy, response time, ...)

António José Carreira Valente - MBA Marketing



Methodology of data analysis





Brief characterisation of TELCO

- Telecommunications company
- Clear hegemony in its market
- Number of customers in the million range
- Strong network of owned stores
- Dynamic department of Market Research (4 waves / year of the main studies)
- Store personnel variable retribution (bonuses, prizes) is linked to the results of major research studies
- Data used in this thesis was collected in the first trimester of 2005

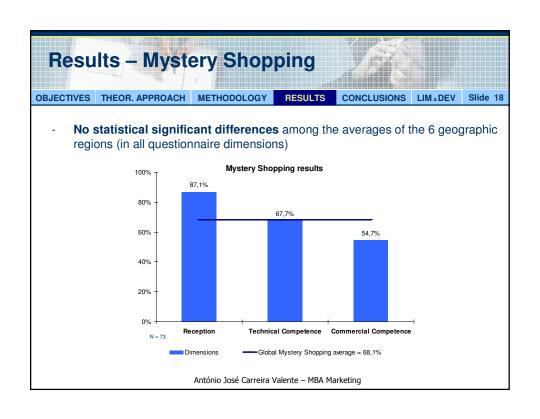
António José Carreira Valente – MBA Marketing

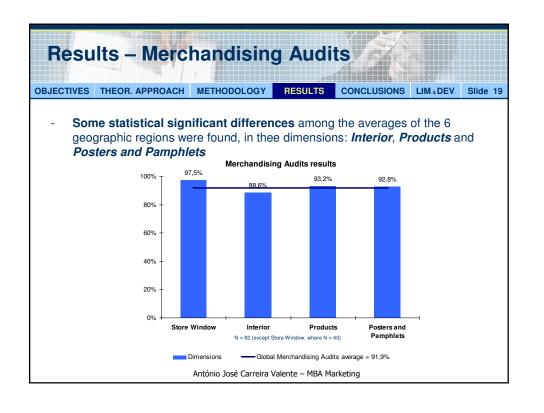


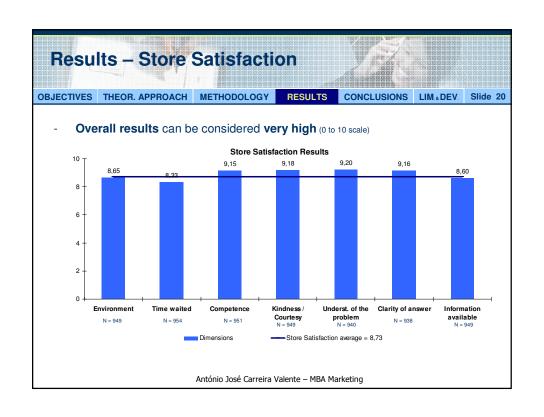
Market Research at TELCO

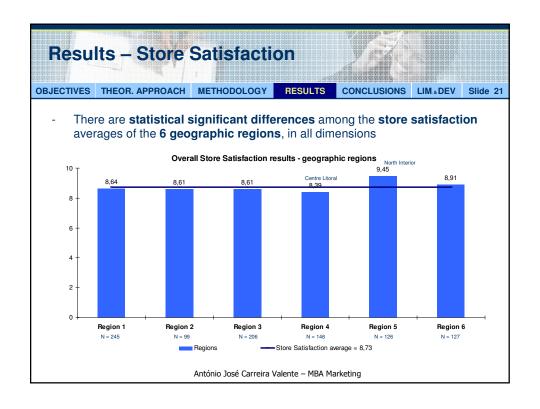
- Mystery Shopping
 - Questionnaire with 3 main dimensions, totalling approx. 40 questions
 - Reception (30%) Technical competence (30%) Commercial competence (40%)
- Merchandising Audits
 - Questionnaire with 4 main dimensions, totalling approx. 40 questions
 - Store window (25%) Interior (30%) Products (20%) Posters and Pamphlets (25%)
- Store Satisfaction
 - Questionnaire with 13 questions main questions (store satisfaction regarding):
 - Environment Time waited Competence Kindness Understanding of the problem
 - Clarity of the answer Information available
- Store Attitudinal Loyalty
 - 1 questions inside Store Satisfaction questionnaire:
 - "Would you recommend this store to a friend or to a family member?"





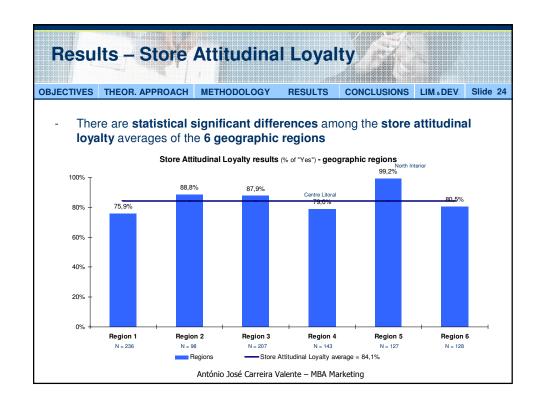


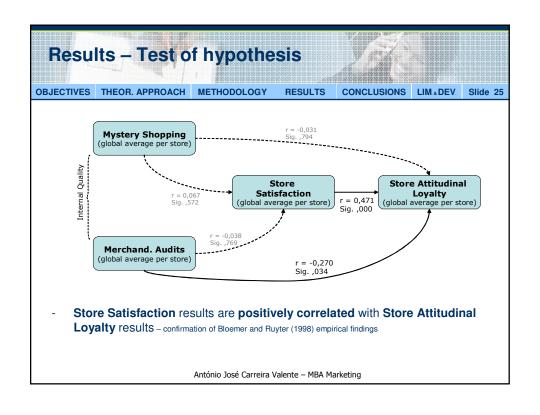


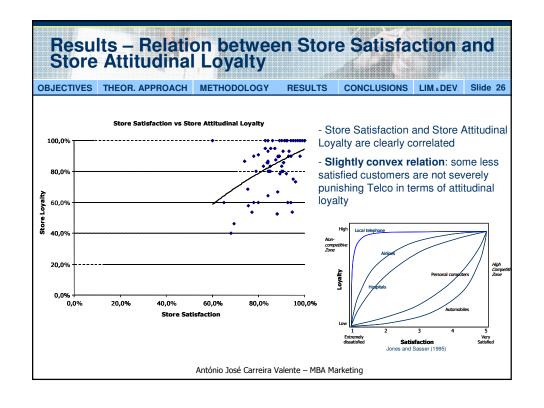


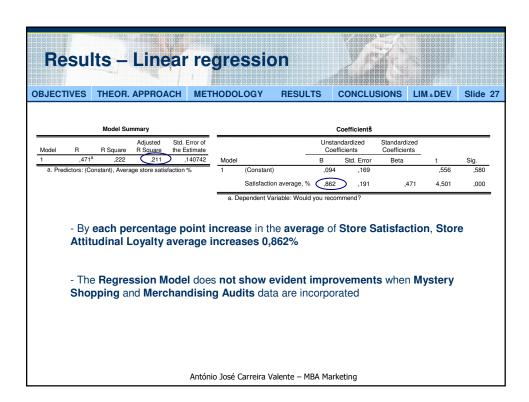


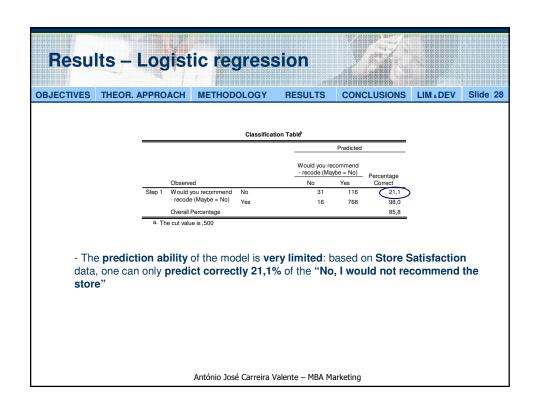
						688	1		
JECT	IVES THEOR. APP	ROACH	METI	HODOLOGY	RE	SULTS	CONCLUSIONS	LIM.&DEV.	Slide
-	Significant va	riable	s:						
			Coefficients ^a Standardized Standardized						
	_	Coeffi		Standardized Coefficients				nt independent	
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.		bles in the	
1	(Constant)	,372	,257		1,446	,149	regre	ession are:	
	7.1. The environment of the store (light, temperature, space,)	,134	,033	,125	4,066	,000	- Store	environme	nt
	7.2. Time waited until being attended	,222	,023	,292	9,513	,000	- Tii	me waited	
	7.3. Professional competence of the employee	-,067	,078	-,062	-,850	,396	- Courte	esy / kindne	ess
	7.4. Politeness / courtesy of the employee	,286	,087	,266	3,296	,001	- Clarity	of the answ	ver
	7.5. Understanding of your situation / request, by the employee	,065	,083	,059	,785	,433	- Inform	ation availa	ble
	7.6. Clarity of the answer to your situation / request, by the employee	,217	,053	,218	4,082	,000			
	7.7. Information available in pamphlets, posters,	,105	,022	,139	4,721	,000			

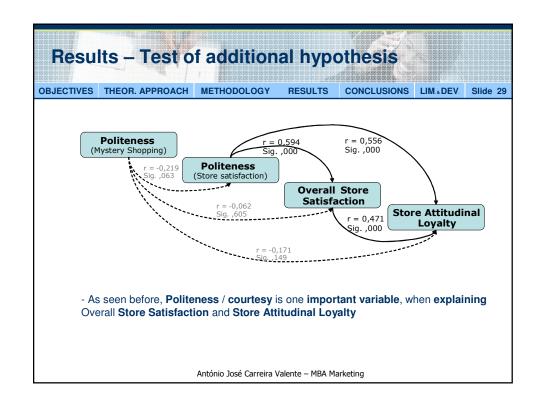




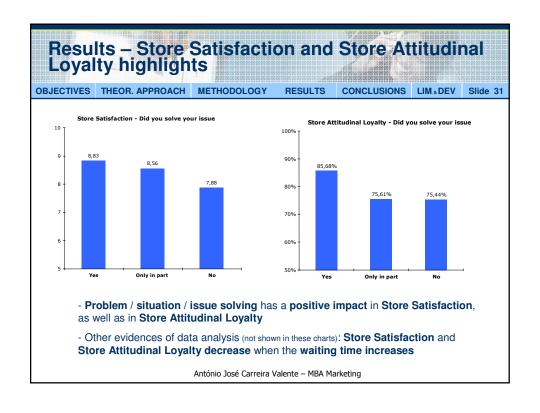








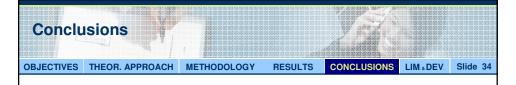








António José Carreira Valente - MBA Marketing



- Mystery Shopping and Merchandising Audits results do not clearly correlate with Store Satisfaction and Store Attitudinal Loyalty results
 - Customers may value other attributes than those in the questionnaires Godfrey (1995)
- Overall Store Satisfaction depends on:
 - The environment of the store T
- Time waited
- Courtesy / Politeness
- Clarity of information Ir
- Information available
- Overall Store Satisfaction is positively correlated with Store Attitudinal Loyalty results
- Store image results (as measured by customers) are positively related with store satisfaction and store loyalty (confirming empirical findings of Bloemer and Ruyter (1998))
- Problem solving at the store level impacts positively Store Satisfaction and Store Attitudinal Loyalty
- Time waited in the queue influences the levels of Store Satisfaction and Store Attitudinal Loyalty

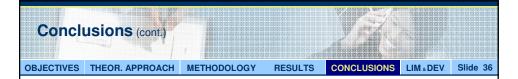
Conclusions (cont.) OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY RESULTS CONCLUSIONS LIM. DEV. Slide 38

- Senior and less qualified customers evidence higher levels of Store Satisfaction than younger and more qualified ones
- The convexity of the logarithmic tendency line relating Store Satisfaction and Store Attitudinal Loyalty partially confirms Jones and Sasser (1995) conclusion for local telephone companies (different environments, however 10 years ago, regulated sector)

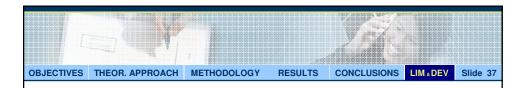
Possible explanations:

- Customers may sense high switching costs
- There may be only few Tesco substitutes
- Customers may not see a huge difference in services provided by Telco competitors, in terms of their stores

António José Carreira Valente - MBA Marketing



- Direct managerial implications
 - Address more carefully younger and more qualified customers
 - Reinforce store personnel training in politeness / courtesy
 - Reinforce training in problem / situation solving
 - Carefully manage queues at a store level
- Indirect managerial implications
 - Stimulate customers to give feedback on Store Satisfaction and areas for improvement (stamp-on questionnaires, breakfast meetings)
 - Consider a lead-generation scheme, in a loyalty program



Limitations and areas for future development

António José Carreira Valente – MBA Marketing

Limitations and areas for future development

OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS LIM. DEV. Slide 38

- Limitations

- Different number of evaluations
 - Mystery Shopping and Merchandising Audits one measurement per store
 - Store Satisfaction and Store Attitudinal Loyalty several observations per store
- Different timings of fieldwork execution:

 - Mystery Shopping January 2005Merchandising Audits February 2005
 - Store Satisfaction / Store Attitudinal Loyalty: February and March 2005
- Different initial scales on Store Satisfaction (0-100%) and Store Attitudinal Loyalty (0-10)
- Possible bias regarding Store Satisfaction and Store Attitudinal Loyalty measurement, due to the explicit presence of interviewers near the stores

Limitations and areas for future development

OBJECTIVES THEOR. APPROACH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS CONCLUSIONS LIM. DEV.

- Areas for future research

- Business perspective

- Test a different approach, starting with qualitative studies, trying to identify the real attributes valued by Telco customers. Then, adapt all questionnaires to those attributes
- Include a profitability analysis, in order to test whether customer loyalty and satisfaction are correlated with profitability

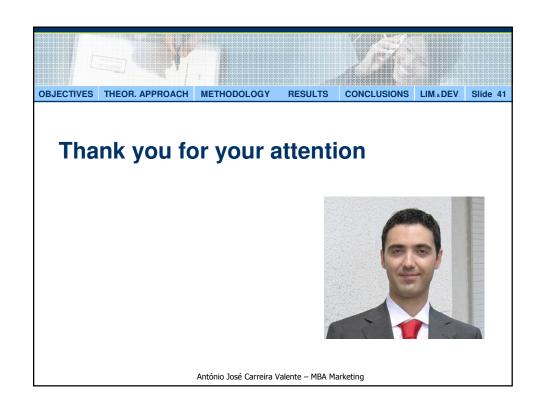
- Methodological perspective

- Consider collecting data by phone, in the next waves
- Test the impact of Consumption Satisfaction on Store Satisfaction Finn (2001)

António José Carreira Valente - MBA Marketing

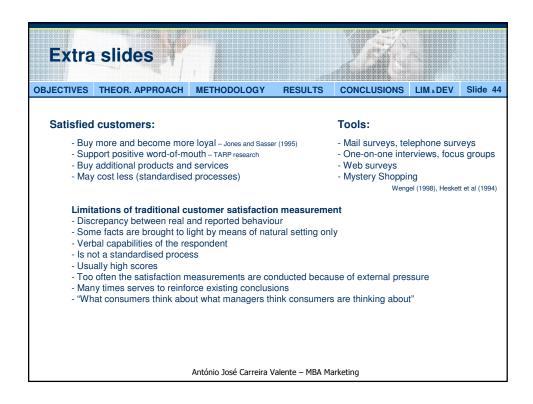


Questions and answers

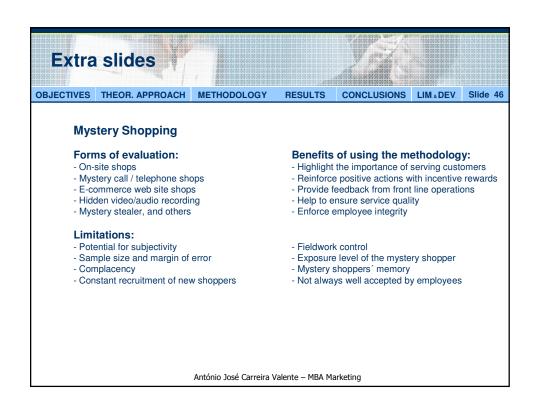


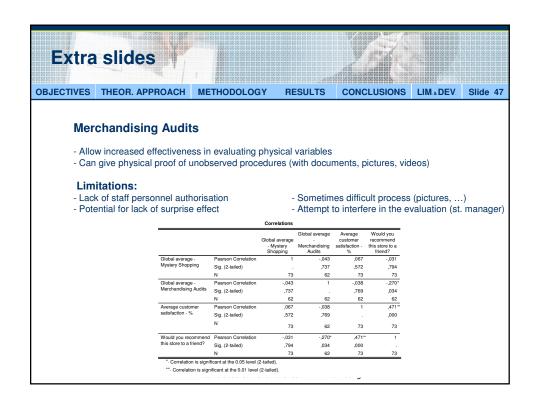




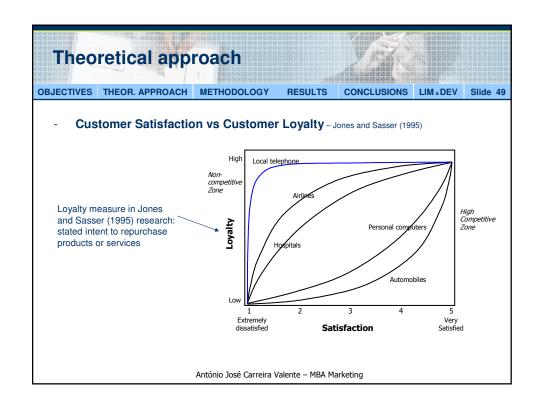


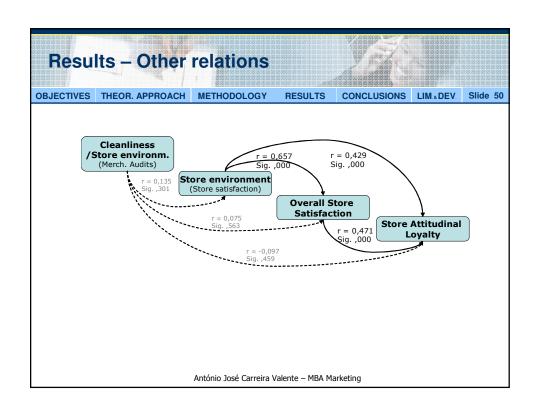


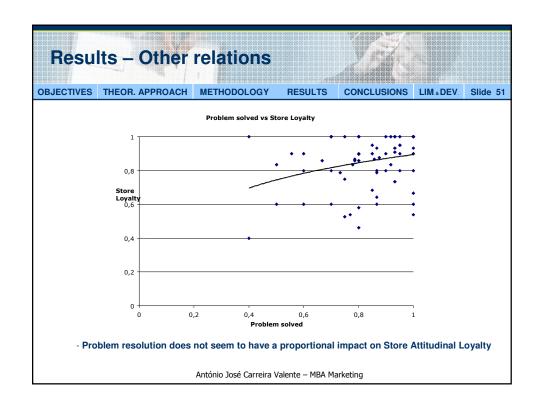














Extra	slides							
OBJECTIVES	THEOR. APPROACH	METHODOLOGY	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	LIM. & DEV.	Slide 53		
- Mer	chandising Audit window front – 25% Cleanliness Organisation Campaigns Official materials Illumination Interior – 30% Cleanliness Temperature Organisation Back-office Broken lamps Official materials Promotional materials Promotional materials Other variables cts – 20% Product prominence Product organisation Product price	Posters	and Pamphlets - (15%) Availabilit Posters p Posters re Posters re ets (10%) Availabilit	- 25% y of posters rominence (regarding ted in the frames pondition sciency y of pamphlets s fitted in the frames				
	Other variables	António José Carreira V	′alente – MBA Ma	rketing				

