



Strategies for creating consumer awareness in the context of Functional Foods

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The <u>Measures</u> of Success & lifestyles have changed..





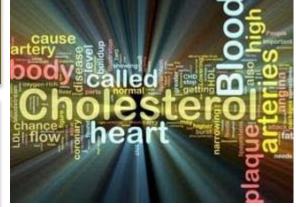
..and so have the <u>Measures</u> of Health..

Burgeoning state of noncommunicable diseases in India



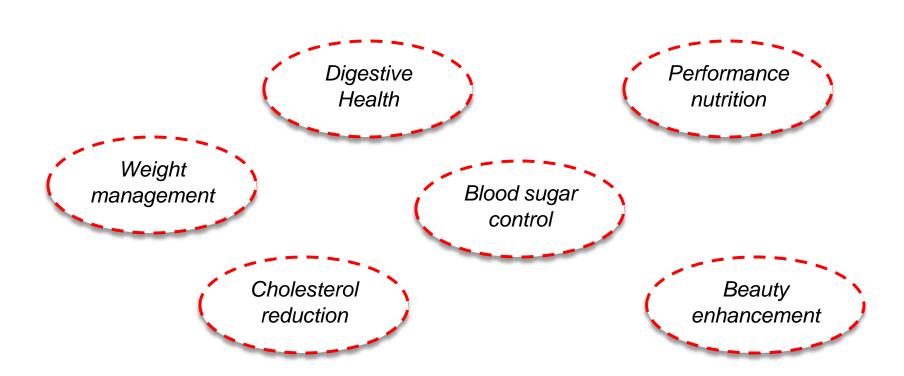








What are Functional Foods?



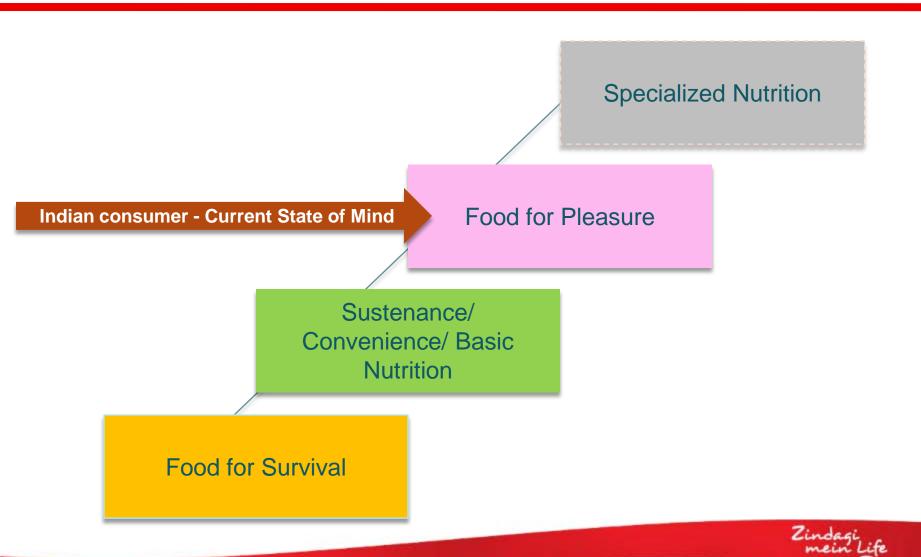


Rapidly building awareness led by Media & increased choices in the market



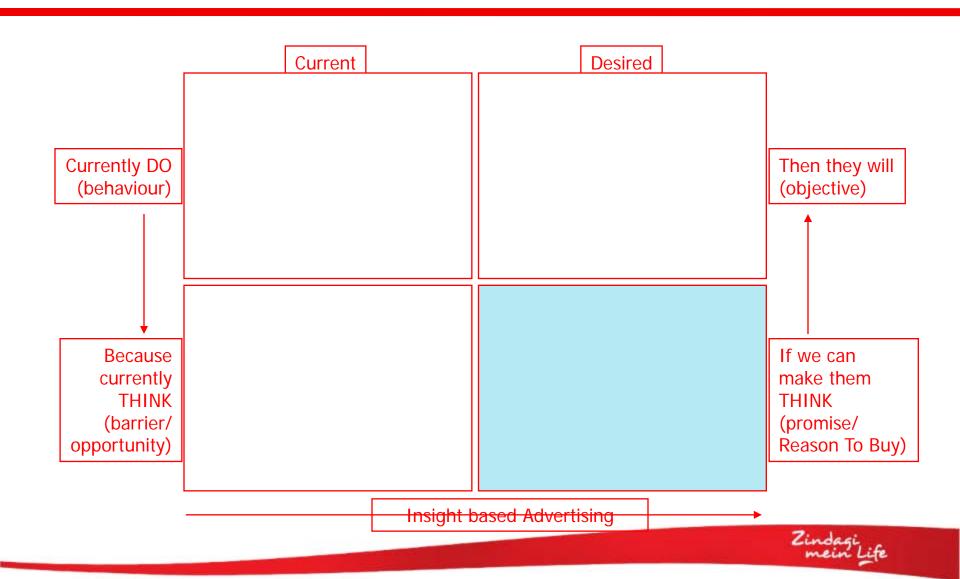
Zindagi mein Life

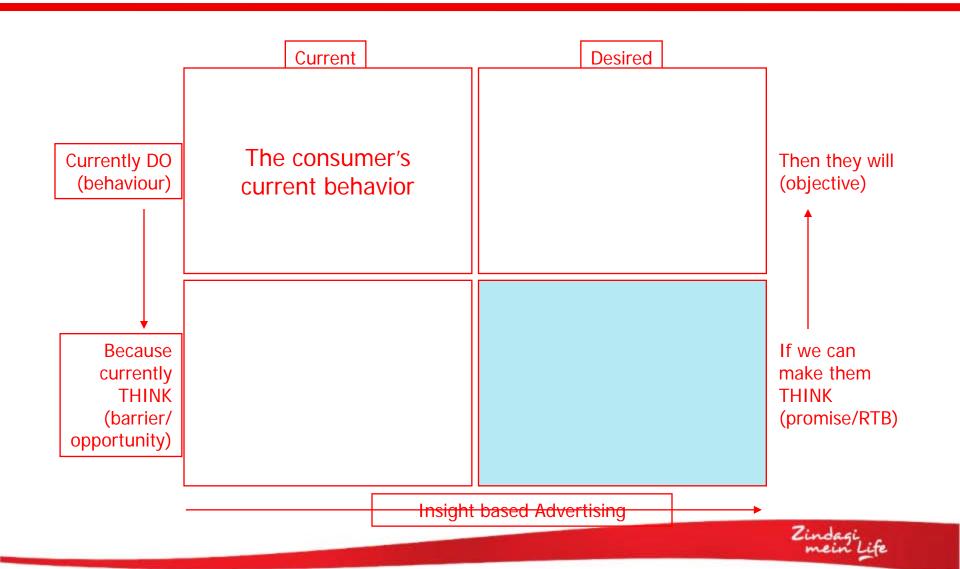
However the Adoption challenge still remains steep in Functional Foods

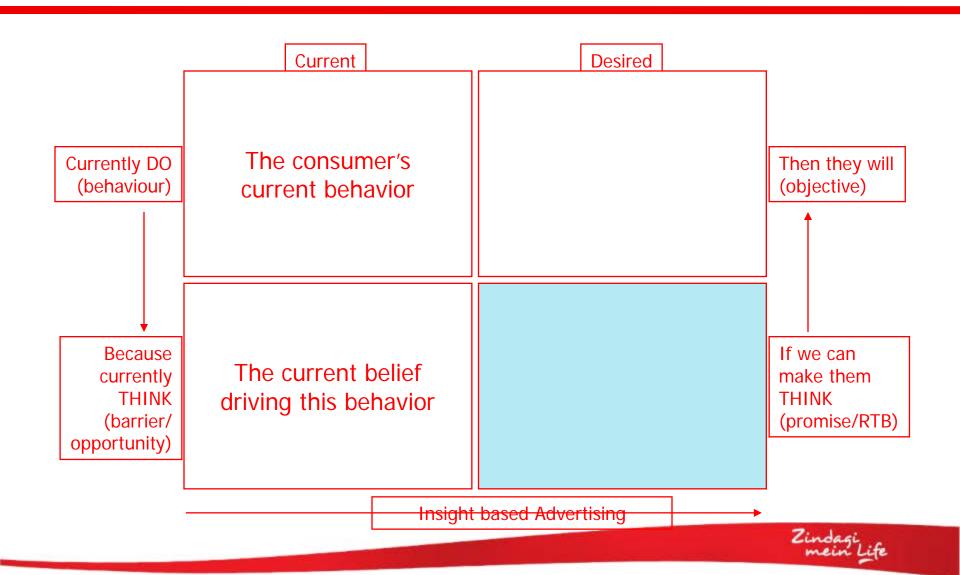


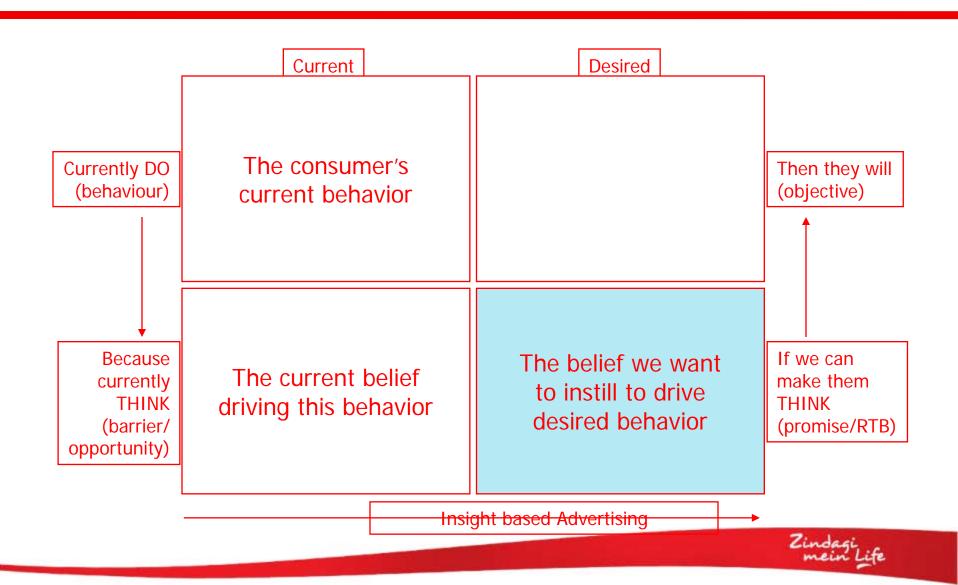
Some Theory on Communication Strategies

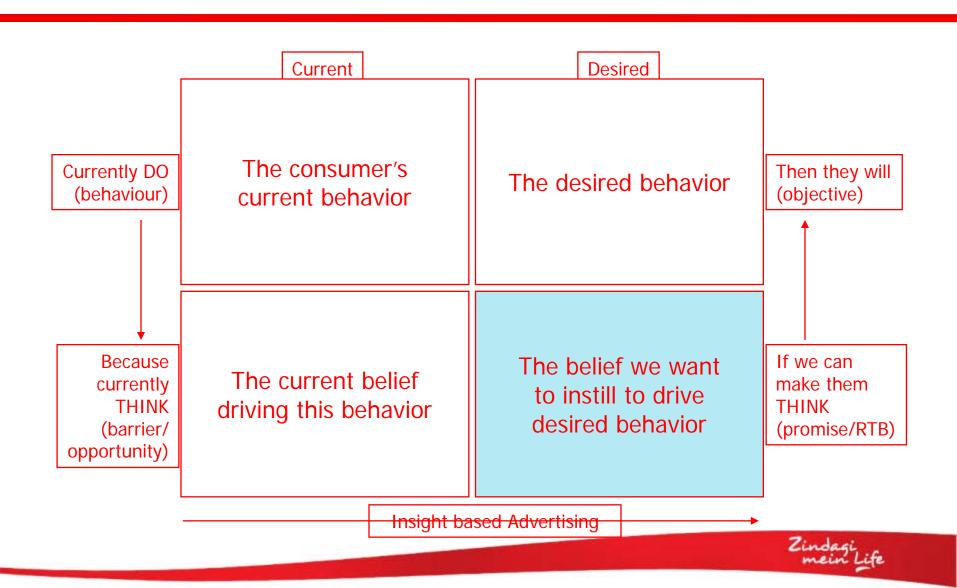












Areas of Benefit Barriers – to look for Insights

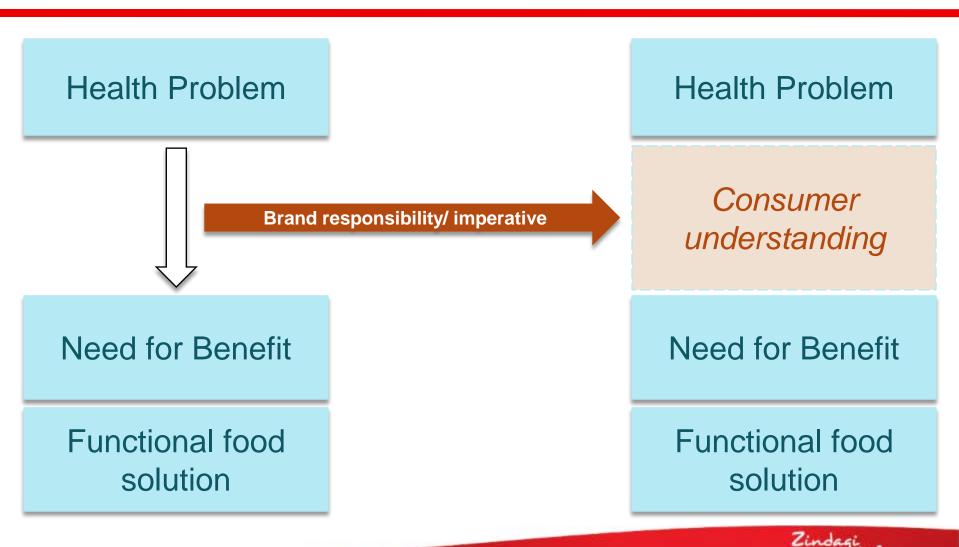
- "I don't want the benefit"
- "I already have the benefit"
- "I don't believe you deliver the benefit"



Applying Communication Theory to Functional Foods



Gap between diagnosis/ concern for the **Health problem** and the **Need for a benefit** is invariably consumer's correct and holistic understanding of the Health problem.



Hence, the BIG communication challenges

"I don't have a Problem"

"Healthy Foods are tasteless"

"This is not the kind of food I am used to"

"I am confused about which is right for me"

1. Building Awareness

2. Building Interest

3. Building Trial

4. Building Habit



"I don't have a Problem"

1. Building Awareness



Get into her shoes, understand the life space

Find the sweet spot where the functional food can make a difference



Other triggers for success:

- Quantum of messaging
- Credentials from recognized/ leading institutions

Target psychology instead of only physiology

Make a connection through communication





The entire Insurance industry especially Health Insurance has relentlessly worked on creating awareness about the problems of securing oneself and hence the need to get insured adequately



"Healthy Foods are tasteless"



2. Building Interest



Keep the message **Interesting** and **Inviting**

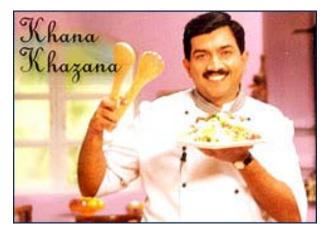
Don't go the **Hippocrates way** in communication.."Let food be thy medicine" does not work

Avoid the risk of sounding 'pharmaceutical' or 'therapeutic'

Remember..consumer is buying food for enjoyment

Television and Entertainment content providers have generated a lot of interest and excitement around 'Cooking' and 'Cookery shows' and taken the genre to a large no. of viewers beyond Housewives.











IPL – Do I need to explain?



"This is not the kind of food I am used to"

3. Building Trial

Ensure superb **Reach** and **Access**



Unit Price & affordability

Price – consumer does not think about buying once

Should seem affordable enough for everyday usage



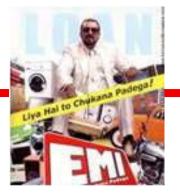


Win @ Point of Purchase, use packaging strategically



EXAMPLE 1.0 Driving affordability has been the cornerstone of growth across categories





EXAMPLE 2.0 'Easy access to Capital and Finance' coupled with the right communication has changed age old behavior to borrowing; and is driving Consumption across categories and enabling Enterprises across the pyramid





"I am confused about which is right for me"

4. Building Habit



Every element must play perfectly

Benefit proposition Product delivery Price Consistent availability Reminders One to one engagement

Key opinion leaders

Once again, the BIG communication challenges & implications

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Functional Food Brands have to play an active role to create to create this **consumer understanding** first and then market the solution.

Factor	What does it mean?	
Need the product	 Positive Choice - Food format already a part of Target consumer's daily habits Should be communicated as a food product - Health Plus If the functional food product is priced at a premium it must have the taste, appearance, and quality of a premium food product The product (even if functional) should be great tasting 	Marketing imperative
Understand the benefit	 The success depends primarily on what the target group already knows, accepts and has heard from credible sources. Special groups of consumers have detailed knowledge about ingredients. What does your target group know and believe about your ingredient 	
Accept the ingredient	 Consumers are interested in health, not ingredients. It is not necessary for consumers to understand the ingredient, as long as they accept it in a healthy food product. If the ingredient is unknown or unattractive, the consumer will chose other products to reach the same health benefit e.g. Probiotic vs. Fiber to deliver Digestive Health For maximum acceptance place your ingredient in a food context and place subject matter in the context of what consumers already know and accept. Otherwise – educate health professionals and other opinion leaders to match consumer readiness 	Development imperative
Trust the brand	 You can't trust any brand to provide for your health In every marketplace there are already a number of food brands consumers associate with health e.g. Britannia, Horlicks, Nestle etc. It takes time/ endorsement to build consumer trust 	Advantage builder

Source: FourFactors, Wennstrom



Signing off: The Three Golden Rules

- Remember "Taste, Taste"
- Leverage powerful human insights, drive through a simplistic message
- Don't Talk AT the consumer, Talk TO the consumer

