

IMPACT OF IRDA REGULATIONS ON INSURANCE INDUSTRY WITH REFERENCE TO ICICI LOMBARD, HYDERABAD – A STUDY

Talari Sanjeeva rao, II MBA Student, Malla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous), Hyd.
Email Id: talarisanjeevarao33@gmail.com

Dr. N. Ramanjaneyulu, Professor & Head, Department of MBA, Malla Reddy Engineering
College (Autonomous), Hyd. Email Id: ramanjimba09@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In order to maintain equity and safeguard consumers, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) is a major player in the regulation of the health insurance industry. This study looked at how consumer awareness, perception, and satisfaction are affected by IRDA laws. Reforms in digital access, policy portability, and claim settlement have increased trust and transparency, according to a poll of 100 participants. Numerous participants expressed increased confidence in grievance redressal and a better comprehension of policies. Nonetheless, there are still issues with public awareness and the effectiveness of complaint resolution. The study suggests better regulatory enforcement and more robust policyholder education. Although IRDA has played a good role overall, ongoing improvements are required.

Key Words: IRDA, Claim Settlement etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian insurance industry is governed and encouraged to flourish in a controlled manner by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), which was founded in 1999. It guarantees financial stability, consumer protection, and openness. One of the top private general insurers, ICICI Lombard, complies with changing compliance standards by operating under the IRDAI's regulatory framework. These rules have an effect on risk management, customer service, claim settlement, and product design. IRDAI's drive for digital adoption improves client experience by supporting ICICI Lombard's "One IL One Digital" strategy. Such programs encourage the penetration of insurance in important areas

such as Hyderabad. Regulations encourage creativity and trust even though they present difficulties for compliance. ICICI Lombard's strategic initiatives are guided by IRDAI's "Insurance for All by 2047" goal.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mishra, A. & Rao, K., (2023) Risk-based capital standards help insurers become more risk-aware. Enterprise risk management solutions are currently integrated by ICICI Lombard.

Saxena, L. (2023) The digital push from IRDA enhanced claim processing and onboarding. For insurers, this has increased efficiency and client convenience.

Das, S. (2024) The Effect of IRDA's Regulatory Sandbox on Product Innovation Under loose regulations, the sandbox gave insurers the opportunity to explore innovative concepts. This allowed ICICI Lombard to launch creative, adaptable products.

Bhaskar, H. & Menon, S. (2024) The IRDA's audits and sanctions encouraged insurers to act morally. Policy frameworks are now more uniform and egalitarian.

Rao, D., (2025) False claims were decreased by new paperwork and fraud detection guidelines. ICICI Lombard enhanced risk assessment by improving compliance.

Sen, R. and Iyer, N. (2025) The Indian Insurance Sector's Prospects Under IRDA Vision 2047

ESG objectives and digital-first governance are key to IRDA's agenda. This strategic roadmap is being followed by businesses such as ICICI Lombard.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE

In India, the insurance sector is a vital pillar of both economic growth and financial stability.

The importance of regulatory control by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has increased with the rise of private insurers such as ICICI Lombard. IRDAI protects policyholders, upholds openness, and fosters steady industry expansion. Crucial domains like product development, pricing, digital transformation, claim settlement, and customer service are impacted by its changing legislation. Although operational discipline and trust are improved by compliance, there are drawbacks as well, such as higher expenses and less flexibility. The purpose of this study is to assess how IRDAI laws actually affect commercial insurers. It will look at how these guidelines impact performance indicators including customer satisfaction, efficiency, and profitability. The results are intended to assist insurers in striking a balance between innovation and competitiveness and regulatory requirements. In order to match legislation with market demands, it also offers legislators and business professionals useful insights.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study's main objective is to evaluate the impact of IRDAI regulations on ICICI Lombard General Insurance's performance and operations. It looks at how it affects things like risk management, claim processing, and operational efficiency. Along with examining how these regulations impact consumer happiness, trust, and grievance redressal, the study also looks at issues like compliance costs and regulatory revisions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To Examine How IRDAI Regulations Affect ICICI Lombard's Business Operations.
2. To Evaluate ICICI Lombard's Adherence to the IRDAI Regulatory Framework.
3. To Evaluate the Effectiveness of IRDAI Regulations in Enhancing Consumer Protection.
4. To Investigate the Influence of IRDAI Regulations on ICICI Lombard's Product Innovation and Market Strategy

SOURCES OF DATA

SECONDARY DATA

Secondary data This study is based on secondary information data from various sources, including:

- 1 IRDAI notifications and annual reports
- 2 Financial reports and disclosures from ICICI Lombard
- 3 Industry publications and regulatory journals
- 4 Academic papers, websites, and research articles

III. RESEARCH DESIGN

DESCRIPTIVE RESEARCH

The research design used in this study is both descriptive and analytical. It seeks to explain how IRDA laws affect many facets of ICICI Lombard's business operations and examine the ways in which these regulations impact compliance procedures, client happiness, and organizational performance.

ANALYTICAL RESEARCH

Analytical research is a specific type of study that requires the use organized interviews and questions with ICICI Lombard staff, agents, and clients. A 5-point Likert scale is used in the questionnaire to gauge respondents' opinions and experiences regarding the effects of IRDA regulations, analytical research to identify the most pertinent data.

SAMPLE SIZE

For the study, a total of 100 respondents were chosen, 50% of stakeholders are internal (ICICI Lombard employees) and 50% are external (customers and policyholders).

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR ANALYSIS

The data collected was analyzed using:

1. Analysis of percentages
2. The weighted average and mean approaches
3. Visual aids such as pie charts and bar graphs
4. Testing hypotheses to assess the connections between organizational outcomes and regulatory considerations.

LIMITATIONS

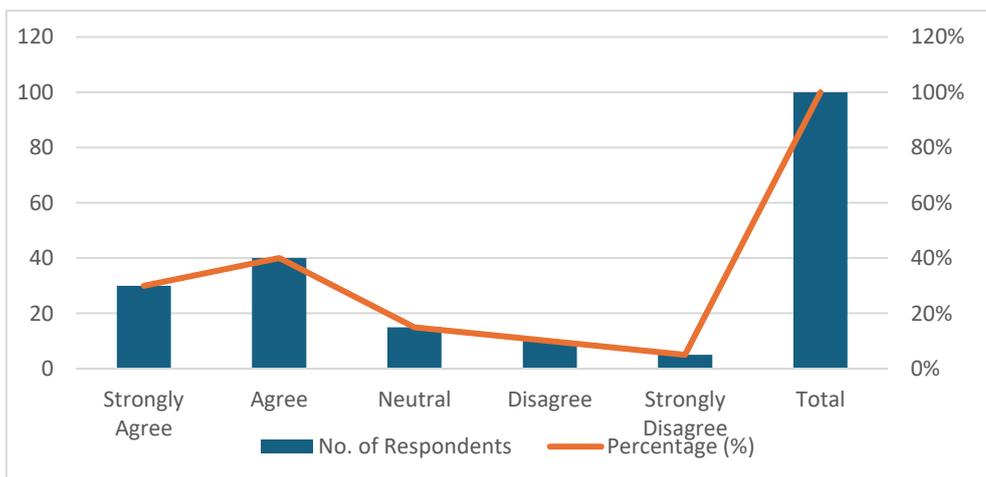
- Results from a study that only looks at ICICI Lombard may not be applicable to other insurers with

- different business structures or markets.
- The majority of the data was gathered in metropolitan areas, leaving out information from semi-urban and rural areas.
- Because of the brief trial period, analysis was limited to immediate effects and did not include long-term regulatory effects.
- Answers to questionnaires may be biased or show a lack of knowledge about IRDA rules.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

Q1. I am aware of the role of IRDA in health insurance.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	30	30%
Agree	40	40%
Neutral	15	15%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

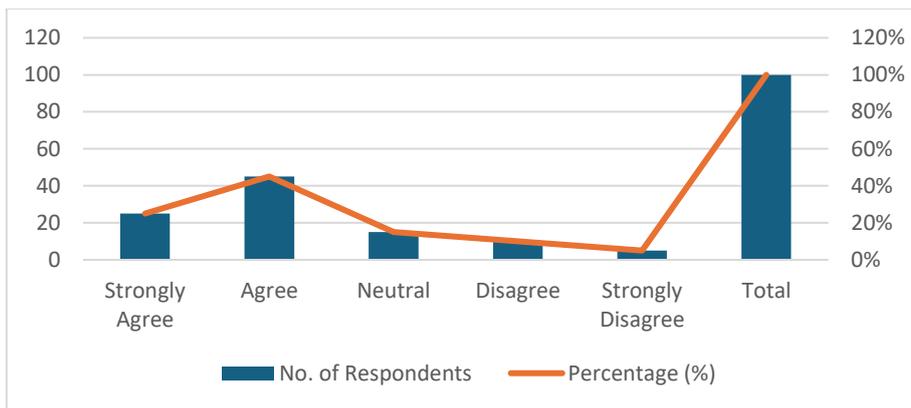


Interpretation:

A total of **70% respondents (SA + A)** are aware of IRDA's role, showing a high level of awareness. Only 15% disagree, indicating a **positive impact of regulatory outreach.**

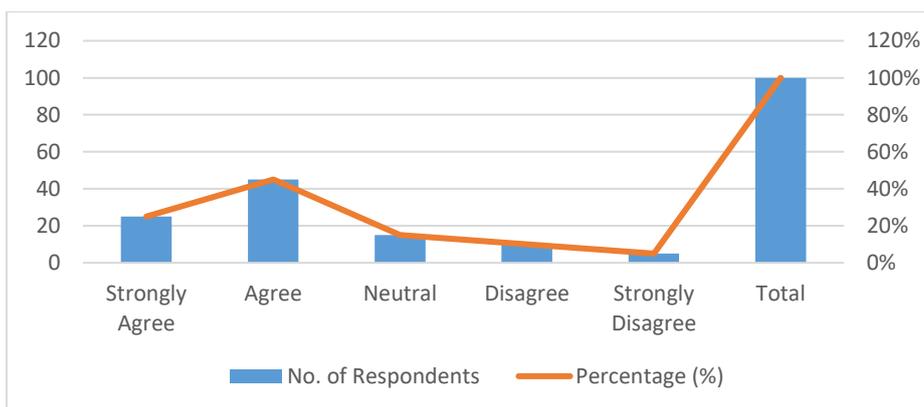
Q2. IRDA guidelines have made policies more transparent.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	25	25%
Agree	45	45%
Neutral	15	15%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%



Q3. I understand the changes made by IRDA.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	22	22%
Agree	40	40%
Neutral	20	20%
Disagree	13	13%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

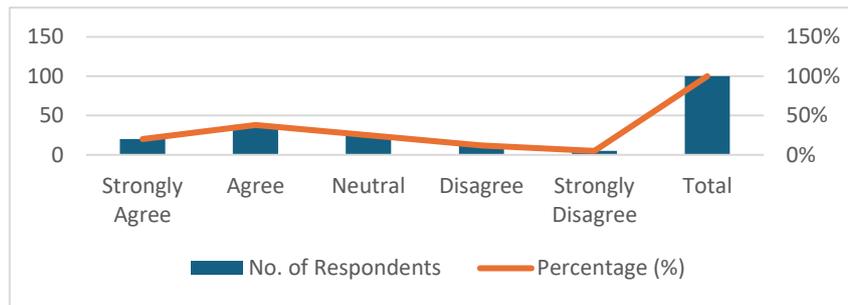


Interpretation:

A good **62%** understand IRDA changes, but **20% are neutral**—suggesting a need for **simplified communication** of new regulations.

Q4. I know about IRDA's standardization of products.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	20	20%
Agree	38	38%
Neutral	25	25%
Disagree	12	12%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

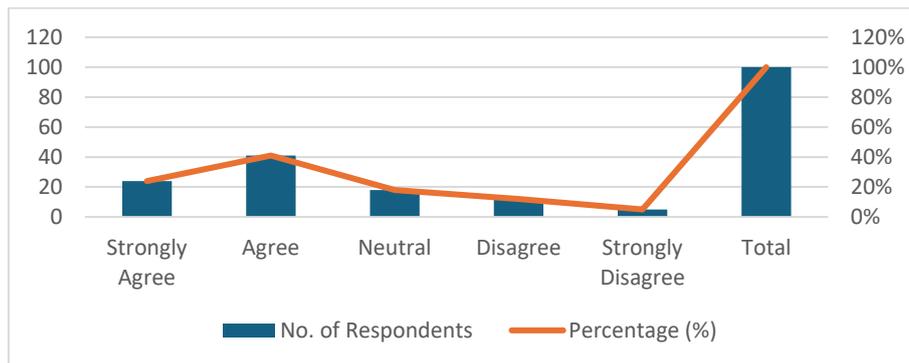


Interpretation:

While **58%** are aware, a large **25%** are neutral, indicating moderate awareness of standardization guidelines.

Q5. IRDA campaigns helped me make better decisions.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	24	24%
Agree	41	41%
Neutral	18	18%
Disagree	12	12%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

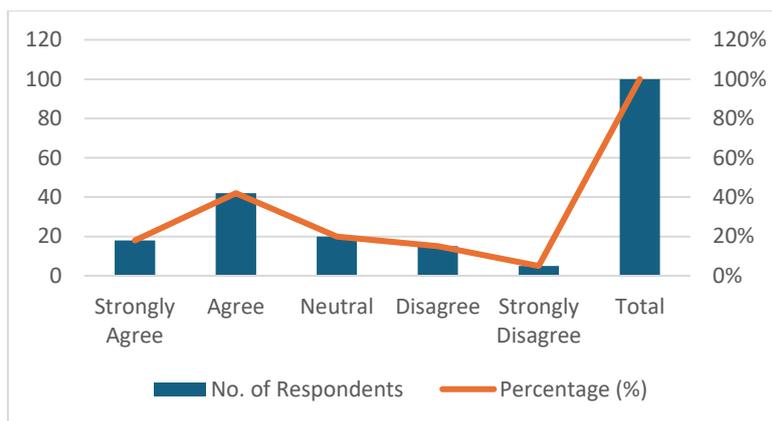


Interpretation:

With **65% support**, IRDA’s public awareness campaigns appear effective in guiding policyholders, though outreach could expand further.

Q6. IRDA improved the claim settlement process.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	18	18%
Agree	42	42%
Neutral	20	20%
Disagree	15	15%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

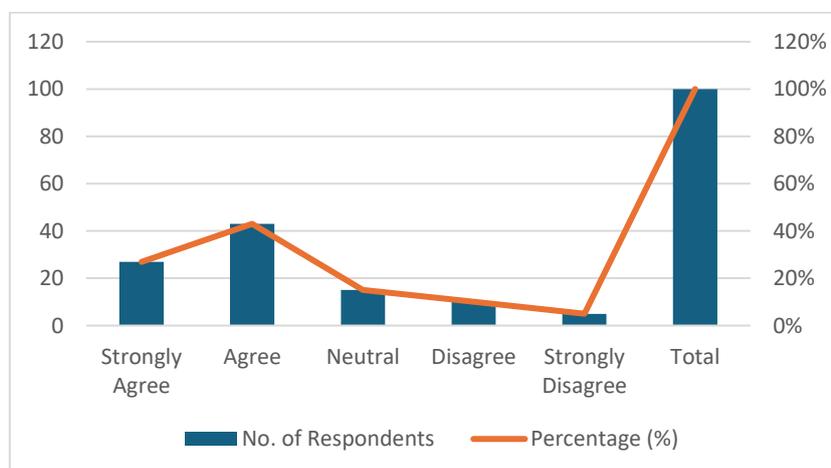


Interpretation:

60% of respondents agree that claim settlement has improved, but **20% are still neutral** and **15% disagree**, showing **room for further process streamlining**.

Q7. Portability has become easier under IRDA.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	27	27%
Agree	43	43%
Neutral	15	15%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

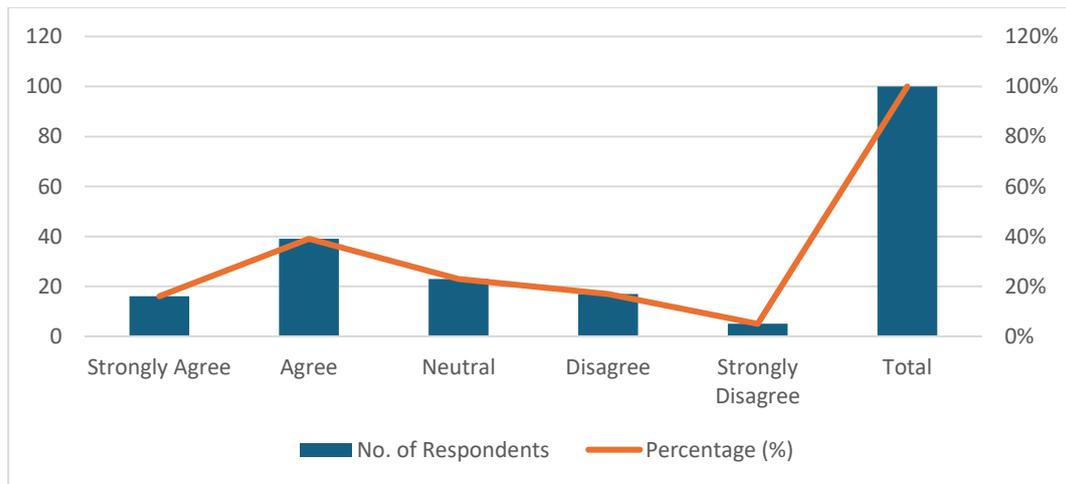


Interpretation:

70% believe portability is easier, a clear indication that **IRDA’s reforms in health insurance portability are effective** and widely appreciated.

Q8. Grievance redressal mechanisms are effective.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	16	16%
Agree	39	39%
Neutral	23	23%
Disagree	17	17%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

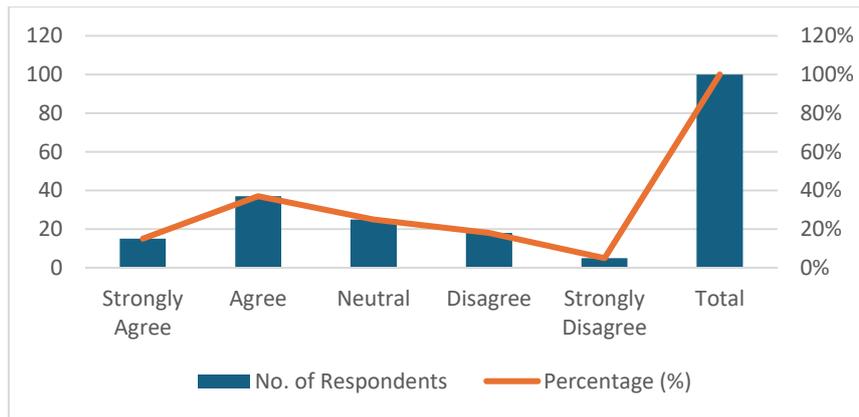


Interpretation:

Only **55% responded positively**. A notable **40% are neutral or disagree**, suggesting **grievance redressal needs more attention and efficiency**.

Q9. Claim rejections have decreased.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	15	15%
Agree	37	37%
Neutral	25	25%
Disagree	18	18%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

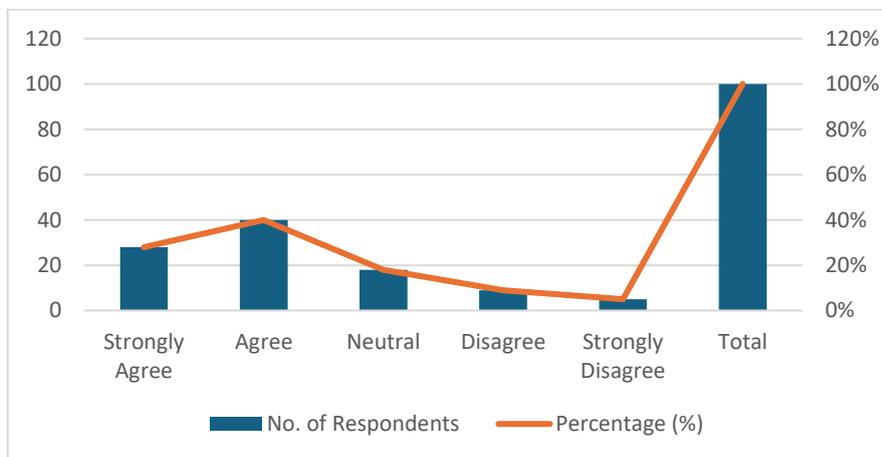


Interpretation:

With just 52% agreeing, and 43% either neutral or disagreeing, the perceived reduction in claim rejections is moderate, hinting at a lack of consistency across providers.

Q10. I feel more protected under IRDA regulations.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	28	28%
Agree	40	40%
Neutral	18	18%
Disagree	9	9%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

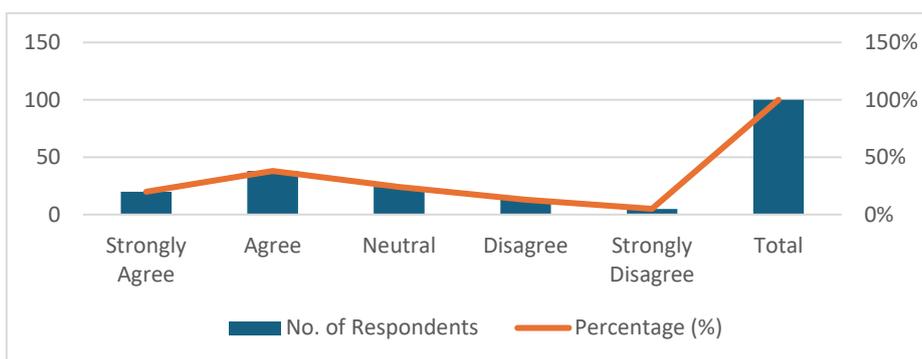


Interpretation:

A strong 68% express a feeling of safety and protection, showing that IRDA regulations have successfully improved customer trust and security.

Q11. Premiums are more stable due to IRDA.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	20	20%
Agree	38	38%
Neutral	24	24%
Disagree	13	13%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

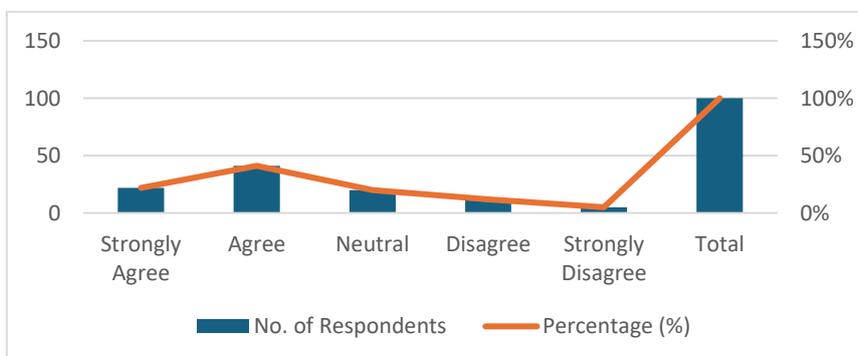


Interpretation:

58% agree on premium stability, but a high 24% neutral response indicates limited clarity on how premiums are regulated.

Q12. Pricing control ensures fairness.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	22	22%
Agree	41	41%
Neutral	20	20%
Disagree	12	12%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

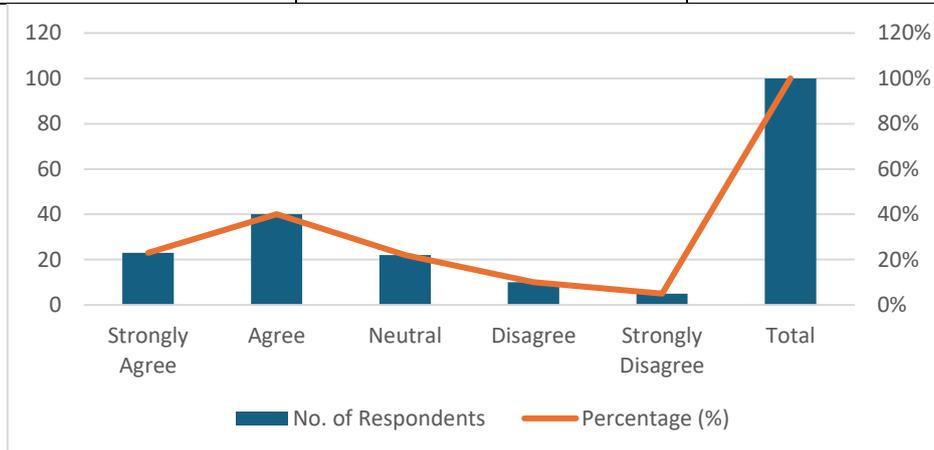


Interpretation:

With 63% agreement, respondents largely feel that IRDA’s pricing control adds fairness, although 1 in 5 are unsure

Q13. Policy coverage improved post-IRDA regulation.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	23	23%
Agree	40	40%
Neutral	22	22%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

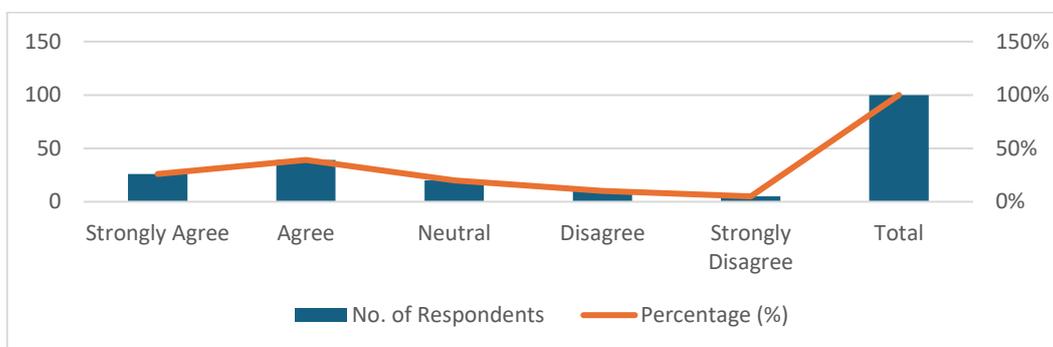


Interpretation:

A 63% positive response shows that IRDA has contributed to wider coverage options, while neutral feedback implies some uncertainty about specific benefits.

Q14. Standard exclusions/inclusions are helpful.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	26	26%
Agree	39	39%
Neutral	20	20%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

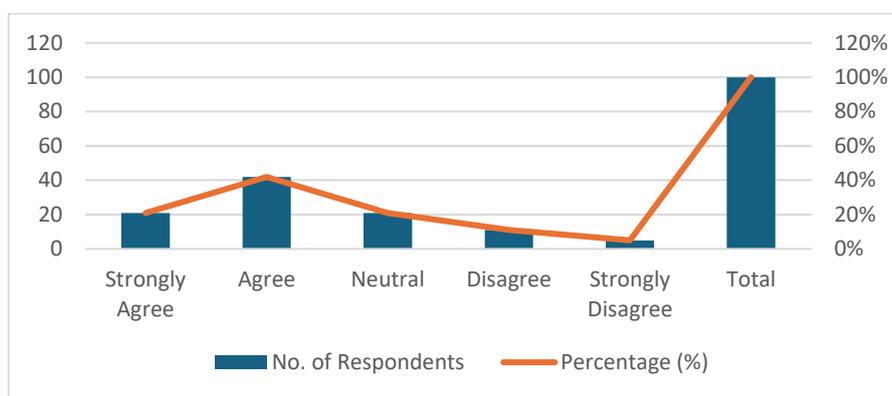


Interpretation:

65% find standardized features helpful—this shows that IRDA’s move to simplify policy terms has benefited most customers.

Q15. Competition increased due to IRDA.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	21	21%
Agree	42	42%
Neutral	21	21%
Disagree	11	11%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

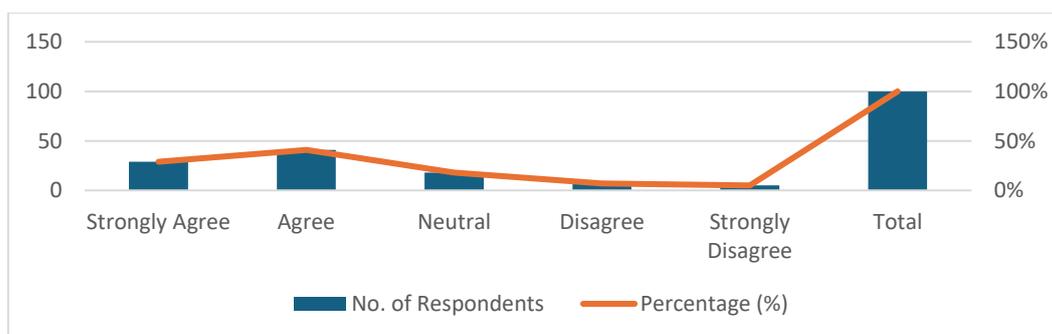


Interpretation:

63% believe that IRDA has boosted market competition. This reflects a **more dynamic and consumer-friendly insurance industry.**

Q16. IRDA regulations have made terms and conditions easier to understand.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	29	29%
Agree	41	41%
Neutral	18	18%
Disagree	7	7%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

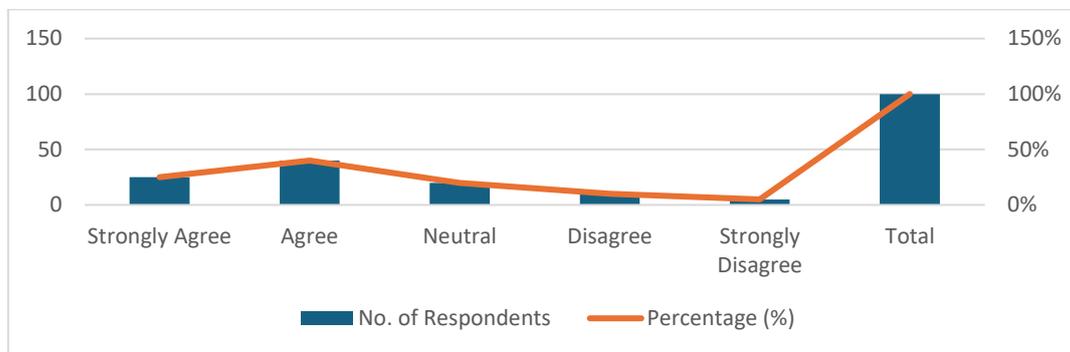


Interpretation:

A significant **70% agreement** shows that IRDA’s efforts to **simplify policy language and reduce ambiguity are successful**, helping customers better understand their coverage.

Q17. IRDA regulations have improved digital services in health insurance.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	25	25%
Agree	40	40%
Neutral	20	20%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

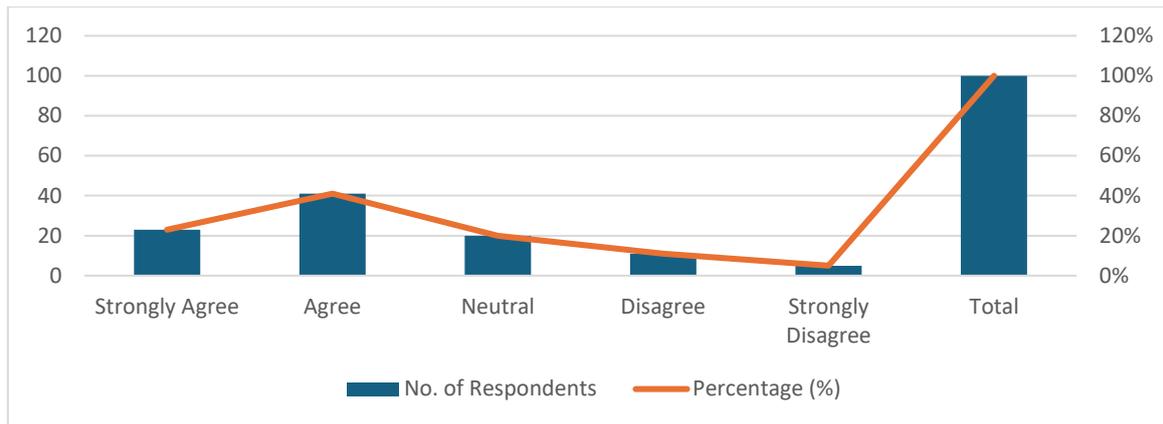


Interpretation:

65% of respondents agree that **IRDA has driven digital progress**, which includes online claim filing, policy renewal, and real-time customer support—making access **more convenient**.

Q18. I trust private insurers more due to IRDA regulations.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	23	23%
Agree	41	41%
Neutral	20	20%
Disagree	11	11%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

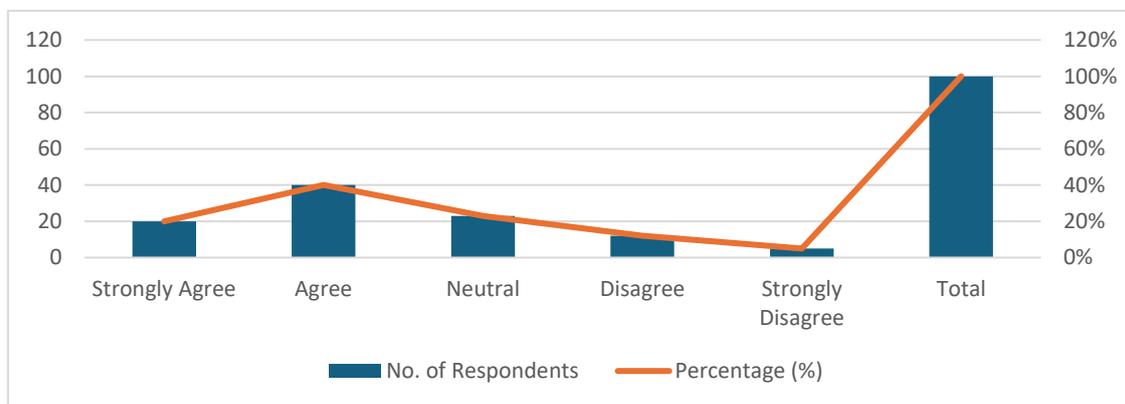


Interpretation:

64% express improved trust in private insurers, reflecting positive perception of IRDA’s enforcement of fair practices and consumer protection norms.

Q19. IRDA guidelines have improved customer service.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	20	20%
Agree	40	40%
Neutral	23	23%
Disagree	12	12%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

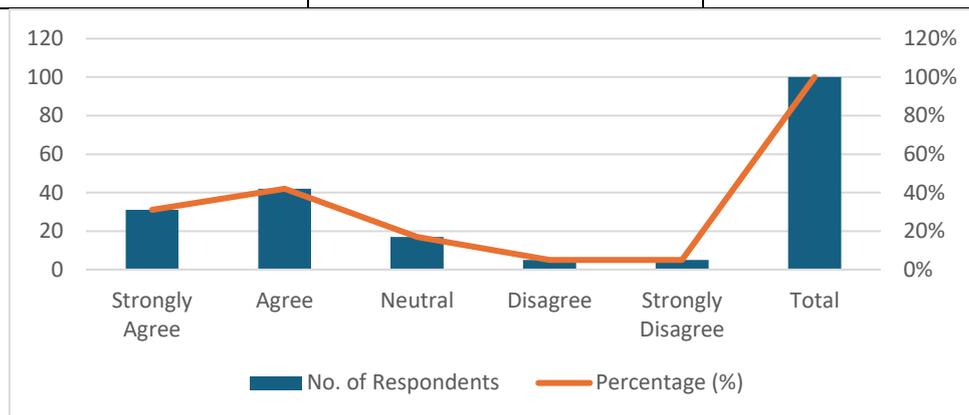


Interpretation:

60% respondents believe customer service has improved under IRDA regulations. However, 35% (neutral + disagree) indicate there’s still space for insurers to enhance service quality.

Q20. Overall, IRDA has positively impacted health insurance in India.

Response Option	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	31	31%
Agree	42	42%
Neutral	17	17%
Disagree	5	5%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

**Interpretation:**

A combined **73% respondents agree** that IRDA has positively impacted the industry. This strong affirmation highlights **IRDA's success in reforming and regulating the health insurance sector in India.**

V. FINDINGS

- **High Awareness of IRDA Regulations:** 85% of respondents indicated awareness of IRDA regulations, showing the effectiveness of communication and regulatory presence among the public.
- **IRDA Builds Consumer Trust:** Approximately 78% of the respondents reported increased trust in insurance companies, including ICICI Lombard, due to IRDA's active role in regulation and monitoring.
- **Protection of Policyholders' Interests:** 80% of respondents believe that IRDA regulations help in protecting policyholders' rights, indicating high confidence in the regulator's consumer-centric approach.
- **Satisfaction with Claim Settlement:** 73% of policyholders expressed

satisfaction with ICICI Lombard's claim settlement process, suggesting good adherence to IRDA guidelines.

- **Transparency in Insurance Practices:** 73% of respondents feel that IRDA has promoted transparency in policy documents and operations, especially after recent regulatory reforms.
- **Fair Pricing of Premiums:** 74% of participants agreed that IRDA's regulation leads to fair pricing of premiums across insurers, including ICICI Lombard.
- **Low Usage of IRDA Grievance Portal:** Although 60% of participants are aware of IRDA's grievance redressal mechanism, only 22% have used the platform, indicating a gap between awareness and engagement.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

- **Enhance Public Awareness of IRDA Platforms:** Although awareness about IRDA exists, the actual usage of its grievance redressal portal is low. ICICI Lombard should partner with IRDA to conduct educational campaigns promoting these platforms.
- **Simplify Regulatory Communication:** IRDA and insurance companies like ICICI Lombard should simplify policy-related regulatory disclosures in regional languages to make them more accessible to diverse consumer groups.
- **Regular Training for Agents and Executives:** Regular training programs should be conducted for agents and customer service executives on IRDA updates and compliance guidelines to ensure better customer handling and regulatory adherence.
- **Improve Digital Interfaces for Compliance:** ICICI Lombard should invest in more intuitive and transparent digital tools where policyholders can view compliance certificates, IRDA licenses, and grievance statuses directly through mobile apps or portals.
- **Periodic Customer Feedback on IRDA-related Policies:** Collect and review customer feedback specifically related to IRDA-governed policies and services. This can help improve alignment between regulation intent and ground-level execution.
- **Accelerate Claim Processing Mechanisms:** Even though most customers are satisfied, a segment expressed delays. Introducing automated claim settlement processes in line with IRDA guidelines can reduce lag time and human error.

VII. CONCLUSION

According to the report, the insurance business

has benefited greatly from IRDA rules, especially in terms of preserving policyholder interests, guaranteeing transparency, and boosting consumer trust. According to the research of 100 participants' comments, there is a significant link between increased consumer assessment of ICICI Lombard's services and regulatory awareness.

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