

## **Elasticity of Demand-**

It is defined as the responsiveness of the quantity demanded of good to the change in price, income, and price of related good. We can say it is percentage change in quantity demanded divided by percentage changes in price, income and price of related goods.

$$E_D = \frac{\% \text{ change in demand}}{\% \text{ Change in determinants of demand}}$$

With the concept in mind, we will now discuss the different type of elasticity of demand-

1. Price Elasticity of Demand
2. Income Elasticity of Demand
3. Cross Elasticity of Demand
4. Advertising or Promotional elasticity of Demand

### **1. Price Elasticity of Demand-**

Price elasticity of demand expresses relationship between change in quality demanded of a commodity and a proportionate change in its price. While calculating price elasticity of demand the determinants of demand should be kept constant.

If say 'elasticity of demand' only we mean to say price 'elasticity of demand'. It is expressed as

$$E_P = \frac{\% \text{ change in demand}}{\% \text{ change in price}}$$

$$E_P = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P}{Q}$$

Where:

$\Delta Q$ = Change in quantity

$\Delta P$ = Change in price

Q=Original quantity

P=Original price

## Degree or Types of Price Elasticity-

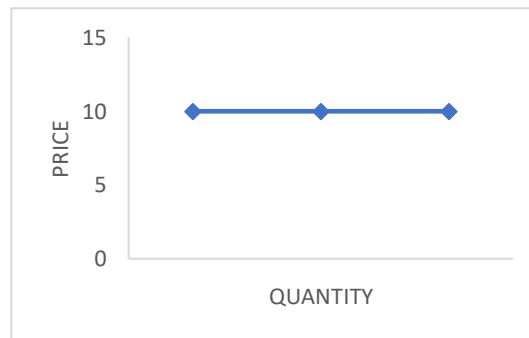
Price elasticity demand is negative for all goods except for goods (inferior goods) that are exception to the law of demand. Price elasticity between varies 0 &  $\infty$ , which will be the respective condition when the goods is completely inelastic or perfectly elastic.

### i]Perfectly Elastic Demand-

$$E = \infty$$

When demand of a commodity increased or decreases to any extent without any change or only upon a small change in its price, is called perfectly elastic demand. In other words when demand of a commodity keeps on changing even if there is no change in its price. (It is an imaginary condition)

| Price (₹) | Quantity (Unit) |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 10        | 100             |
| 10        | 110             |
| 10        | 120             |

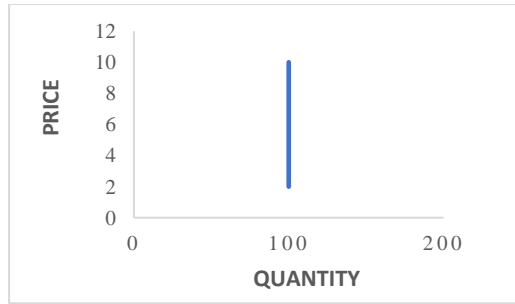


### ii]Perfectly Inelastic Demand-

$$E = 0$$

When demand of a commodity does not change at all irrespective of any change in price, it is called perfectly inelastic demand.

| Price (₹) | Quantity (Unit) |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 10        | 100             |
| 8         | 100             |
| 6         | 100             |
| 2         | 100             |

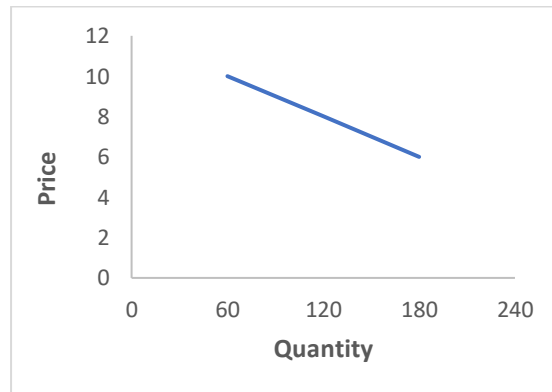


### iii].Unitary Elastic Demand-

$$E=1$$

Price elasticity of Demand is unity when the change in demand is exactly proportionate to the change in price. For eg.- If on 10% increase in the price of a commodity, demand decrease 10%, it will be called unity elastic. Eg. Commodities lie cars, fashion items.

| Price (₹) | Quantity (Unit) |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 10        | 60              |
| 8         | 120             |
| 6         | 180             |

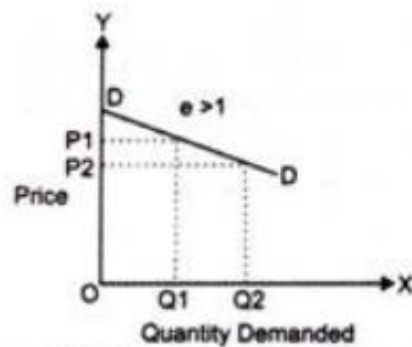


### iv]Highly Elastic or relative Elastic Demand-

$$E>1$$

When the proportionate change in demand of a quantity is more than the proportionate change in its price. Eg- Luxurious goods

| Price (₹) | Quantity (Unit) |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 10        | 100             |
| 8         | 140             |
| 6         | 200             |



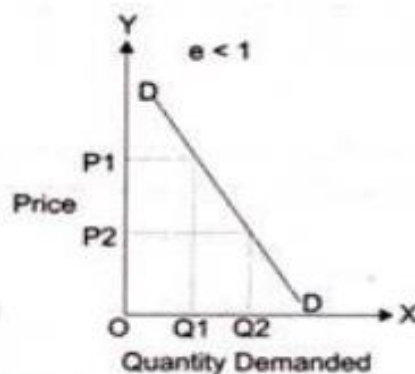
**Figure-4: Relatively Elastic Demand**

**v] Inelastic Demand or Less or Relative Inelastic Demand-**

$$E < 1$$

When proportionate change in the demand of a commodity is less than proportionate change in price. Eg.- Wheat and Milk

| Price (₹) | Quantity (Unit) |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 10        | 1               |
| 8         | 2               |
| 6         | 3               |



**Figure-5: Relatively Inelastic Demand**

**Determinants of price Elasticity of Demand-**

The elasticity of demand varies from commodity to commodity while the demand for some commodity is highly elastic, the demand for others is highly inelastic. Following are the main determinants of the elasticity of demand.

**1. Availability and Closeness of substitute-**

Fewer close substitutes of the product, less elastic the demand for the product and vice versa.

**2. Proportion of income spent on the product-**

When the good proportion of income spent is more, more elastic the demand for the product and vice versa

### **3. Time period-**

Demand is more elastic in long run than in short run. Urgency is less elastic demand.

### **4. Uses of Product-**

The price elasticity of demand would be higher for those products which have large number of use.

### **5. Habit Formation-**

The demand for the product which the consumer consume due to habit is relatively inelastic demand.

### **Application of Price Elasticity Demand-**

1. Pricing decision of business organization
2. Pricing regulation by the government
3. Paradox of plenty
4. Use in the international trade
5. Fiscal Policy

## Measurement of Price Elasticity of Demand-

There are five methods of measuring elasticity of demand

### 1. Percentage Method-

In this method price elasticity of demand is measured by the ratio of percentage change in quantity demanded divided by the percentage change in price of a commodity.

$$E_p = \frac{\% \text{ change in demand}}{\% \text{ change in price}}$$

$$E_p = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P}{Q}$$

Where:

$\Delta Q$  = Change in quantity

$\Delta P$  = Change in price

$Q$  = Original quantity

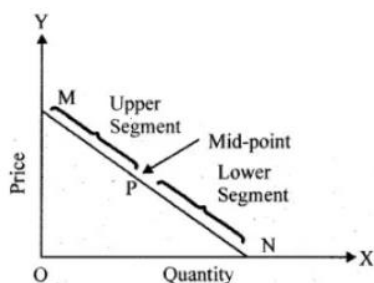
$P$  = Original price

### 2. Point Method-

Under this method the price elasticity of demand is measured geometrically. Price elasticity of demand at any point can be measured by applying the following formula-

$$E_p = \frac{\text{Lower segment of the demand curve}}{\text{Upper segment of the demand curve}}$$

Point elasticity is the elasticity of demand at a finite point on a demand curve

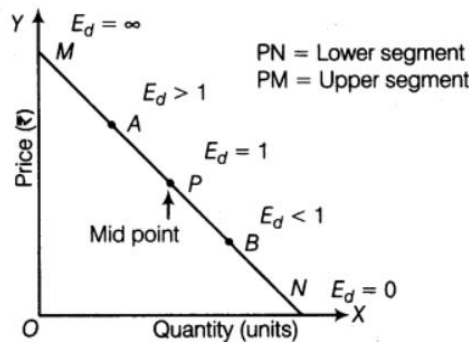


$$E_p = \frac{PN}{PM}$$

**Note-**

1. At mid point of linear demand curve,  $e_p=1$
2. At any point above the mid point,  $e_p>1$
3. At any point below the mid point,  $e_p<1$

4. At extreme point,  $N e_p=1$
5. At extreme point  $e_p$  is undefined because division by zero is undefined.



### 3. Revenue Method-

Revenue refers to the sale proceeds of a firm. Elasticity of a demand can be estimated if average revenue and marginal revenue are known. Average revenue is the price per unit of commodity. Margin revenue is the additional to total revenue by sale of an additional unit of the commodity.

$$E_p = \frac{A}{A - M}$$

Where,

A= Average revenue

M= Marginal revenue

### 4. Total outlay or Expenditure Method-

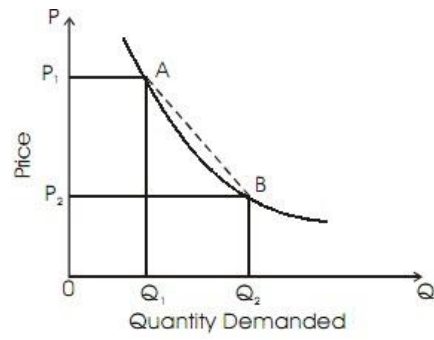
According to this method the elasticity of demand is measured by considering the change in total outlay as a result of change in price of the commodity. In this method we compare the total expenditure before and after the price change and there we find the elasticity of demand.

Total Outlay= Quantity purchased\* Price of commodity

| Price per Unit | Demand( Unit) | Total Expenditure | Comments                        |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7              | 6             | 42                | Position before change in price |
| 6              | 10            | 60                | $E_p > 1$                       |
| 6              | 5             | 30                | $E_p < 1$                       |
| 6              | 7             | 42                | $E_p = 1$                       |

### 5. Arc Method-

Segment of curve between two points is called an arc. The measure of elasticity of demand between any two finite point on the demand curve is known as arc elasticity.



Here we have to take average price of  $OP_1$  and  $OP_2$  and average of original and new demand.

$$E_p = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{(P_1 + P_2)}{(Q_1 + Q_2)}$$



## 2. Income Elasticity of Demand

A responsiveness or degree of change in demand for a product as a result of change in income is known as income elasticity. The formula for calculating income elasticity of demand is the percent change in quantity demanded divided by the percent change in income. With income elasticity of demand, you can tell if a particular good represents a necessity or a luxury.

$$E_Y = \frac{\% \text{ Change in demand for a product}}{\% \text{ Change in income of consumer}}$$

### **i Income elasticity more than 1**

The positive income elasticity of demand will be more than unitary if the proportionate change in the amount of a product demanded is higher than the change in consumer income in due proportion.

$$E > 1 \quad \text{eg.- Five star hotels[Luxury]}$$

### **ii Income elasticity less than 1**

If the change in the amount of a product demanded in due proportion is less than the change in consumer income in due proportion, positive income elasticity of demand will be less than unitary.

$$E < 1 \quad \text{eg.- Essential goods}$$

### **iii Income elasticity is 0**

It corresponds to the situation when there is no impact of rising household income on commodity production. Such goods are termed essential goods. For example, a high-income consumer and a low-income consumer will need salt in the same quantity.

$$E = 0 \quad \text{eg.- Salt}$$

### **iv Income elasticity is negative**

It refers to a condition in which demand for a commodity decreases with a rise in consumer income and increases with a fall in consumer income. Inferior goods are such commodities. For example, the demand for millet will decrease if the income of consumers increases since they will prefer to purchase wheat instead of millet. Thus, millet is an inferior good to wheat for customers.

$$E < 0 \quad \text{eg.- Coarse grain}$$

### **v Income elasticity is more than 0**

$$E > 0 \quad \text{eg.- Normal goods}$$

### **vi Income elasticity is equal to 1**

The positive income elasticity of demand will be unitary if the proportionate change in the amount of a product demanded equals the change in consumer income in due proportion.

$$E = 1 \quad \text{eg.- Semi Luxury}$$

### 3. Cross Elasticity of Demand

The quantity demanded of a particular commodity varies according to the price of other commodities. Cross elasticity measures the responsiveness of the quantity demanded of a commodity due to changes in the price of another commodity. For example, the demand for tea increases when the price of coffee goes up. Here the cross elasticity of demand for tea is high. If two goods are substitutes then they will have a positive cross elasticity of demand. In other words, if two goods are complementary to each other than negative income elasticity may arise.

$$E_c = \frac{\text{Proportionate change in purchase of commodity } X}{\text{Proportionate change in price of commodity } Y}$$

1. When cross elasticity is more than 0 (Substitute goods)

$$E_c > 0$$

eg. Gur and Sugar

2. When cross elasticity is less than 0 (Complimentary goods)

$$E_c < 0$$

eg. car and petrol

3. When cross elasticity is equal to 0 (Unrelated goods)

$$E_c = 0$$

eg. cycle & cake

#### References:

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Samuelson, Paul A; Nordhaus, William D. (2014). Economics. Boston, Mass: Irwin McGraw-Hill.