

CONSUMER ANALYTICS CAPABILITIES AS STRATEGIC ENABLERS OF DIGITAL MARKETING STRATEGIES: A CONCEPTUAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The increasing digitalization of business environments has significantly influenced how organizations understand and engage with their customers. The widespread availability of consumer data generated through websites, social media platforms, mobile applications, and e-commerce channels has enhanced the strategic importance of consumer analytics capabilities. These capabilities enable organizations to analyze consumer behaviour, predict purchasing intentions, segment customers, and personalize digital marketing efforts. Concurrently, digital marketing techniques have evolved from mass communication approaches to highly targeted, data-driven initiatives that emphasize consumer engagement and value creation. Although substantial research has examined consumer analytics and digital marketing separately, limited conceptual attention has been given to how consumer analytics capabilities influence the design and implementation of digital marketing strategies. This paper synthesizes existing research to examine the relationship between consumer analytics capabilities and digital marketing strategies. Consumer analytics serve as strategic organizational resources that enhance digital marketing through improved customer segmentation, behavioural analysis, predictive analytics, sentiment analysis, customer lifetime value assessment, and churn prediction. Additionally, this paper contributes to the literature by exploring the connections between digital marketing strategies and digital outcomes. Managerial implications are discussed, and future research directions are outlined for scholars and practitioners seeking to leverage consumer analytics for sustainable competitive advantage.

Keywords: Consumer Behaviour, Digitalisation, Consumer Analytics, Digital Marketing Strategies, Artificial Intelligence.

1. INTRODUCTION

The connection between businesses and customers has completely changed as a result of the digital economy. Due to the growing use of digital technologies, such as social media, cloud computing, e-commerce platforms, and mobile applications, businesses are constantly gathering massive amounts of customer-generated data. Due to this change, marketing now uses evidence-based tactics backed by sophisticated analytics instead of intuition-driven decision-making (Wedel & Kannan, 2016). At the same time, consumer expectations have changed. Consumers today want businesses to be aware of their preferences, anticipate their needs, and offer tailored experiences through a variety of digital platforms. As a result, businesses rely more and more on consumer analytics capabilities to transform unprocessed consumer data into useful business intelligence that helps with strategic marketing choices (Davenport et al., 2020).

Organizational competences that enable the gathering, integration, interpretation, and use of consumer data to comprehend purchasing behaviour, preferences, attitudes, and future intentions are included in consumer analytics capabilities. By moving from descriptive reporting to predictive and prescriptive decision-making, these capabilities help businesses improve customer relationship management and marketing efficacy (Shmueli et al., 2020). Strategies for digital marketing have also changed significantly. Online promotion via websites and email campaigns was the main focus of traditional digital marketing. In order to provide individualized customer experiences, modern digital marketing incorporates a variety of digital touchpoints, such as search engines, social media platforms, mobile applications, influencer marketing, content marketing, and customer relationship management systems (Chaffey & Ellis-Chadwick, 2022).

Organizations must employ sophisticated analytical capabilities due to the increasing complexity of digital customer behaviour. Customer segmentation, behavioural analysis, predictive modeling, sentiment analysis, customer lifetime value assessment, and churn prediction have all become critical components of strategic marketing strategy. These capabilities allow businesses to identify important client segments, personalize marketing communications, optimize resource allocation, and build long-term customer connections (Lemon & Verhoef, 2016).

Although earlier research has looked at consumer analytics and digital marketing separately, there has been little focus paid to understanding how consumer analytics capabilities combined influence digital marketing tactics from a conceptual standpoint. Existing research usually focuses on single technologies or isolated applications rather than offering a comprehensive theoretical explanation of how they interact. This article fills that gap by describing how organizations use analytical capabilities to improve customer-centric digital marketing campaigns and gain a lasting competitive edge. The chapter contributes to the literature by establishing a theoretical link between consumer analytics capabilities and digital marketing techniques. Furthermore, it discusses the importance of consumer analytics in digital marketing strategies. Additionally, it offers management insights for organizations looking to improve marketing performance with analytics-driven decision-making.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The combination of digital technologies and advanced data analytics has revolutionized modern marketing techniques, making consumer analytics a critical competency for companies looking to compete in ever-changing marketplaces. Consumer analytics is the systematic method of gathering, analyzing, and interpreting consumer data to better understand purchasing behaviour, preferences, and decision-making patterns, allowing for evidence-based marketing decisions (Wedel & Kannan, 2016). As businesses increasingly communicate with customers via digital channels, consumer analytics has emerged as a critical resource for developing efficient digital marketing plans.

Digital marketing has transitioned from a communication-focused role to a customer-centric, data-driven discipline. Chaffey and Ellis-Chadwick (2022) define digital marketing as the use of digital technology and online platforms to produce, communicate, and deliver value to clients while building long-term relationships. Unlike traditional marketing approaches, digital marketing enables organisations to monitor consumer interactions in real time, allowing continuous optimisation of marketing campaigns based on consumer insights.

Researchers have repeatedly stated that the efficiency of digital marketing is dependent on an organization's capacity to convert customer data into usable knowledge. According to Wedel and Kannan (2016), marketing analytics has evolved from descriptive reporting to predictive

and prescriptive decision-making, allowing businesses to discover client demands, forecast consumer behaviour, and optimize marketing performance. This shift has established consumer analytics as a crucial organizational skill that aids strategic marketing decisions. Customer segmentation is one of the most extensively researched consumer analytics capabilities. Traditional segmentation approaches were mostly based on demographic and geographic features; however, improvements in analytics have enabled behavioural, psychographic, and predictive segmentation using enormous amounts of consumer data. Such segmentation allows marketers to discover homogeneous consumer groups and build personalized marketing techniques that boost campaign success and its effectiveness.

Consumer behaviour research improves digital marketing by analyzing consumers' browsing habits, purchasing histories, online interactions, and engagement across numerous digital platforms. Lemon and Verhoef (2016) stated that analyzing the customer journey across several touchpoints enables organizations to have a full understanding of consumer experiences and optimize interactions throughout the decision-making cycle. As a result, behavioural insights enable businesses to send relevant marketing messages at the right stages of the client journey.

Predictive analytics has become an important component of consumer analytics. Using statistical models and machine learning techniques on past consumer data, businesses can forecast future purchase behaviour, estimate customer lifetime value, find cross-selling opportunities, and predict customer attrition (Shmueli et al., 2020). These predictive skills improve marketing planning, budget allocation, and client retention methods, resulting in greater marketing effectiveness. Sentiment analysis has received a lot of attention as social media platforms and online customer reviews have grown in popularity. Organizations can use natural language processing and text analytics to assess consumer perceptions, emotions, and attitudes toward brands, products, and services. These insights help marketers refine communication methods, improve brand reputation, and respond proactively to consumer issues (Grewal et al., 2020).

Customer Lifetime Value (CLV) research has evolved as a critical analytical tool for making strategic marketing decisions. Rather than relying exclusively on current sales, CLV allows businesses to predict individual customers' long-term profitability, allowing them to better deploy marketing resources and devise retention strategies for high-value consumers (Kumar and Reinartz, 2018). Similarly, churn prediction enables organisations to identify customers who are likely to discontinue their relationship with the brand, facilitating timely interventions through personalised retention initiatives.

Previous research has exhaustively explored individual consumer analytics capabilities; however, the literature on their collective impact on digital marketing techniques is fragmented. Most studies focus on specific analytical methodologies or technology applications, rather than viewing consumer analytics capabilities as integrated organizational competences that enable strategic digital marketing. This fragmented perspective hampers our comprehension of how diverse analytical capabilities contribute to the development of customer-centric marketing strategies. Further, it suggests that businesses are increasingly integrating diverse consumer analytics capabilities to improve digital marketing performance. Rather than depending on individual analytical techniques, businesses combine customer segmentation, behavioural analysis, predictive modeling, sentiment analysis, customer lifetime value analysis, and churn prediction to generate holistic consumer intelligence. This comprehensive strategy allows businesses to personalize client experiences, optimize digital communication, improve customer relationship management, and gain a competitive advantage.

The rapid progression of digital technologies has primarily transformed the relationship between businesses and consumers. Over the past decade, organisations have increasingly implemented digital platforms to engage customers, promote products, and deliver personalised experiences. The propagation of smartphones, social media platforms, e-commerce, cloud computing, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices has generated unparalleled volumes of consumer data. Consequently, organisations have shifted from intuition-based marketing towards data-driven decision-making, giving inflates to consumer analytics as a strategic business function (Vollrath & Villegas, 2022).

Consumer analytics is the systematic collection, integration, analysis, and interpretation of consumer data to better understand purchasing behaviour, preferences, attitudes, and future plans. Unlike traditional market research, AI-powered consumer analytics processes both structured and unstructured datasets at the same time, allowing organizations to forecast customer behaviour more accurately (Huang & Rust, 2021). Machine learning algorithms continuously enhance prediction accuracy by analyzing consumer interactions across many digital touchpoints.

Artificial Intelligence has appeared as one of the most powerful technologies driving digital transformation. AI covers computational systems competent of performing activities that classically require human intelligence, including learning, reasoning, pattern recognition, language understanding, and decision-making. Within marketing, AI enables organisations to examine millions of consumer communications in real time and generate actionable insights that advance marketing effectiveness (Vinerean & Opreana, 2024). The framework proposes that Artificial Intelligence technologies serve as the main enablers of advanced consumer analytics. These technologies analyse structured and unstructured consumer data to produce actionable views regarding preferences, purchasing behaviour, and future intentions. Organisations utilise these insights to develop data-driven digital marketing strategies, including personalised advertising, recommendation systems, dynamic pricing, and customer relationship management. Successful implementation of these strategies augments customer engagement, satisfaction, loyalty, purchase intention, and overall marketing performance (Davenport et al. (2020).

The integration of consumer analytics into digital marketing strategies enables organisations to implement more personalised and customer-centric marketing initiatives. Through the analysis of browsing behaviour, purchase histories, demographic characteristics, and online interactions, firms can provide personalised recommendations, targeted advertising, customised content, and relevant communication. This level of personalisation enhances customer engagement and strengthens customer relationships (Kumar et al., 2019; Huang & Rust, 2021). In addition, consumer analytics offers organisations a comprehensive understanding of customer preferences, purchasing behaviour, and interactions. Customer segmentation and predictive analytics enable firms to identify distinct consumer groups, anticipate future behaviours, and formulate targeted marketing strategies (Wedel & Kannan, 2016). Analytics further supports omnichannel engagement by integrating customer information across websites, social media, mobile applications, email, and e-commerce platforms, which improves the management of the customer journey (Lemon & Verhoef, 2016).

Consumer analytics can additionally support customer acquisition, retention, and relationship management by identifying high-value customers, estimating CLV, and recognising potential churn. These capabilities allow organisations to allocate marketing resources more effectively (Kumar & Reinartz, 2018). From a strategic perspective, analytics capabilities may also contribute to competitive advantage by enabling organisations to respond more effectively to

changing consumer preferences and market conditions (Barney, 1991). Overall, consumer analytics transforms customer data into actionable marketing insights that support segmentation, personalisation, targeted communication, recommendation systems, and customer relationship management.

However, the strength of these linkages is influenced by a number of moderating factors, including consumer trust, privacy concerns, data governance, legal compliance, and ethical AI implementation. Organizations that successfully handle these concerns are more likely to reap the full strategic benefits of AI-powered consumer insights. Modern consumers interact with brands via websites, mobile apps, social media platforms, search engines, online marketplaces, wearable gadgets, and voice assistants. Each encounter offers useful behavioural information. AI technologies translate this data into valuable insights, allowing marketers to anticipate client requirements before they are openly expressed. These predictive skills have transformed customer relationship management, personalized advertising, product recommendations, and client retention methods (Huang and Rust, 2021). Global investments in AI-powered marketing technology are increasing as businesses recognize their potential to improve operational efficiency, increase customer pleasure, and boost profitability. AI-powered recommendation engines employed by digital platforms have shown significant increases in consumer engagement and purchase conversion by providing highly personalized content and offers.

Therefore, the existing literature highlights the growing strategic importance of consumer analytics while revealing the understanding of conceptual framework that explains how consumer analytics capabilities collectively influence digital marketing strategies. The literature suggests that Consumer Analytics Capabilities influence Digital Marketing Strategies, which subsequently contribute to improve Digital Marketing Outcomes.

3. EXPLANATION OF THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

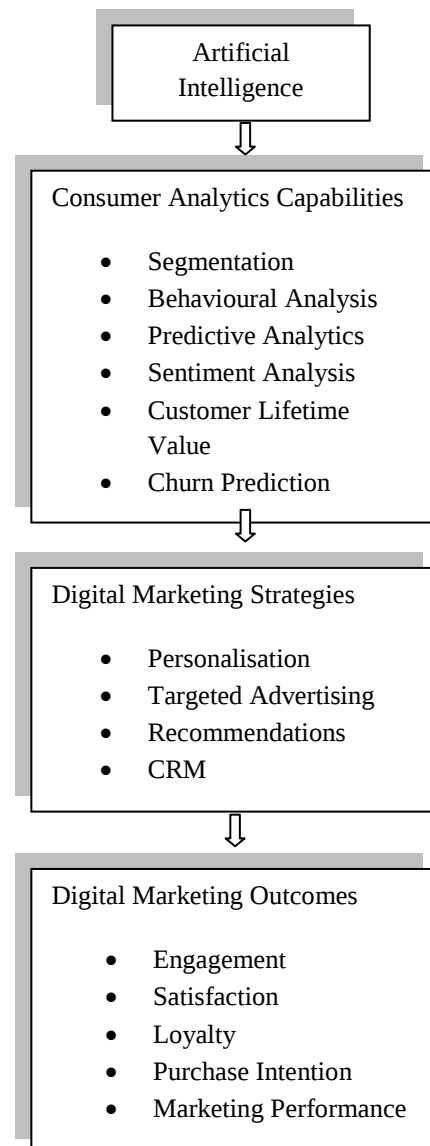
On the basis of previous studies, the proposed conceptual framework explains how Artificial Intelligence (AI) enables consumer analytics capabilities and how these capabilities contribute to the development of effective digital marketing strategies and improved marketing outcomes. This framework is based on the argument that the increasing availability of consumer data from digital platforms requires organisations to use advanced analytical technologies to convert data into meaningful and actionable customer insights.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is positioned as the primary technological enabler of the framework. AI allows organisations to process large volumes of both structured and unstructured consumer data and identify patterns that may not be easily detected through traditional analytical methods. In marketing, AI can support real-time data analysis, prediction, automation, personalisation, and customer interaction. Recent research indicates that AI can enable organisations to develop marketing activities that respond dynamically to individual consumer preferences and improve customer engagement (Vinerean & Opreana, 2024). Therefore, AI provides the technological foundation through which advanced consumer analytics capabilities can be developed.

The second component of the framework is Consumer Analytics Capabilities. These capabilities include customer segmentation, behavioural analysis, predictive analytics, sentiment analysis, Customer Lifetime Value (CLV) analysis, and churn prediction. Through these analytical techniques, organisations can understand customers' preferences, purchasing patterns, interactions, attitudes, and future behaviour. For example, predictive models can be used to estimate future customer value and support more effective allocation of marketing resources (Wang et al., 2019). Additionally, customer analytics assist organisations

understand the customer decision journey and use digital data to improve marketing decision-making (Vollrath & Villegas, 2022).

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of AI-Enabled Consumer Analytics and Digital Marketing Strategies



The framework then proposes that Consumer Analytics Capabilities influence Digital Marketing Strategies. The insights generated through consumer analytics enable organisations to develop more targeted and customer-centric marketing activities. These include personalised advertising, targeted communication, recommendation systems, and customer relationship management. Rather than delivering the same marketing message to all customers, organisations can use analytical insights to provide relevant content and offers according to individual preferences and behaviour. Recent studies suggest that AI-supported personalisation can enhance the relevance of marketing communications and contribute to stronger customer engagement, retention, and conversion outcomes.

The last part of the framework is Digital Marketing Outcomes. Using consumer analytics and data-driven marketing strategies well should lead to better customer engagement, satisfaction, loyalty, purchase intention, and overall marketing results. Personalised marketing, for

example, can make customer experiences more relevant and build stronger relationships between consumers and organisations. Rajendran et al. (2024) say that personalised marketing using customer data, segmentation, tailored content, and AI can improve customer experience, engagement, conversion, and brand loyalty.

In summary, the framework shows a step-by-step relationship: AI is the technology base for consumer analytics, consumer analytics turns customer data into useful insights, these insights help create effective digital marketing strategies, and these strategies lead to better customer and marketing results. This model brings together technology, analytics, marketing strategy, and performance outcomes, instead of looking at each consumer analytics technique separately.

This relationship can be shown as:

Artificial Intelligence → Consumer Analytics Capabilities → Digital Marketing Strategies → Digital Marketing Outcomes

This integrated view addresses a gap in the literature, where past research often looked them as individual analytical techniques. The proposed framework instead sees consumer analytics as a set of complementary capabilities that together support customer-focused and data-driven digital marketing.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSUMER ANALYTICS IN DIGITAL MARKETING STRATEGIES

Digital marketing strategies have become an integral component of contemporary marketing due to the increasing availability of consumer data and advancements in analytical technologies. Unlike traditional marketing approaches that rely on broad market segmentation and mass communication, digital marketing strategies are increasingly data-driven, enabling organisations to deliver personalised, timely, and relevant experiences across multiple digital perspectives (Chaffey & Ellis-Chadwick, 2022). The effectiveness of these strategies depends largely on an organisation's ability to transform consumer data into actionable insights through consumer analytics capabilities.

The incorporation of consumer analytics into digital marketing tactics also improves personalization, which has become a significant factor in customer satisfaction and loyalty. Organizations can enhance consumer engagement and conversion rates by analyzing browsing history, purchase data, and social media interactions to give tailored product recommendations, personalized email campaigns, and targeted marketing (Kotler et al., 2021). Such personalized interactions improve client relationships and promote long-term brand loyalty. Furthermore, Consumer analytics helps marketers make strategic decisions by allowing them to monitor campaign results in real time. Metrics such as click-through rates, conversion rates, customer acquisition expenses, and customer lifetime value provide useful information on the performance of digital marketing campaigns. As a result, organizations may continuously improve their marketing strategy, manage resources more efficiently, and maximize return on marketing investment. Consumer analytics offers marketers with a inclusive understanding of customer demographics, preferences, buying behaviour, online communications, and engagement patterns. These insights facilitate organisations to devise digital marketing strategies that are customer-centric rather than product-centric. For example, customer segmentation helps marketers recognize homogeneous consumer segments and modify promotional campaigns to their specific needs, while predictive analytics enables organisations to foresee future buying behaviour and optimise marketing investments (Chaffey & Ellis-Chadwick, 2022).

Digital marketing strategies also assist omnichannel customer engagement by incorporating communication across websites, social media platforms, mobile applications, email marketing, and e-commerce platforms. Consumer analytics facilitates constancy across these channels by giving a united view of customer interactions, allowing organisations to convey seamless and personalised customer experiences throughout the consumer journey (Lemon & Verhoef, 2016). From a strategic standpoint, digital marketing techniques supported by consumer analytics help businesses gain a competitive advantage by increasing customer acquisition, retention, and relationship management. Organizations that use analytics efficiently are better positioned to identify emerging market trends, adapt to changing consumer preferences, and create novel marketing solutions. As marketplaces become more competitive and data-driven, incorporating consumer analytics into digital marketing becomes a strategic imperative for long-term corporate growth (Barney, 1991).

Overall, digital marketing strategies translate consumer analytics insights into effective marketing actions. By leveraging consumer analytics, organisations can make informed decisions, deliver personalised customer experiences, optimise marketing performance, and strengthen long-term customer relationships in an increasingly digital marketplace.

CONCLUSION

The increasing digitalisation of markets has fundamentally altered how organisations understand, engage with, and build relationships with consumers. The expansion of digital platforms has resulted in the generation of substantial volumes of consumer data, presenting both opportunities and challenges for organisations aiming to develop effective marketing strategies. Within this context, consumer analytics has become a critical organisational capability, enabling firms to convert consumer data into actionable insights concerning preferences, purchasing behaviour, customer journeys, and future intentions. The reviewed literature demonstrates that analytical capabilities, including customer segmentation, behavioural analysis, predictive analytics, sentiment analysis, Customer Lifetime Value analysis, and churn prediction, provide valuable information for evidence-based marketing decision-making.

The review further indicates that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become an important technological enabler of advanced consumer analytics. AI and machine learning technologies allow organisations to process large and complex datasets, identify behavioural patterns, predict customer responses, and support personalised marketing activities. Consequently, AI-enabled consumer analytics can help organisations move beyond traditional, mass-oriented marketing towards more customer-centric and data-driven approaches. The findings from the reviewed literature suggest that AI can strengthen the organisation's ability to understand customers and translate consumer information into actionable marketing intelligence. The literature also establishes the significance of consumer analytics capabilities in developing digital marketing strategies. Insights derived from analytics support customer segmentation, personalised advertising, targeted communication, recommendation systems, customer relationship management, and other digital marketing activities. These strategies enable organisations to deliver more relevant and timely interactions across various digital touchpoints.

Additionally, integrating consumer analytics into digital marketing facilitates the monitoring of campaign performance, optimisation of marketing resources, and more effective responses to evolving consumer preferences. A key finding from the literature is that the benefits of consumer analytics extend beyond isolated marketing activities. When effectively integrated into digital marketing strategies, consumer analytics contributes to enhanced customer

engagement, satisfaction, loyalty, purchase intention, customer retention, and overall marketing performance. This evidence suggests that consumer analytics should not be regarded solely as a technological or operational tool. Instead, it constitutes a strategic organisational capability that enables firms to create customer value, improve decision-making, and strengthen their competitive position. At the same time, the literature highlights that the effective implementation of AI-enabled consumer analytics is dependent on several contextual considerations. Consumer trust, privacy, data governance, transparency, legal compliance, and ethical AI practices are particularly important because the extensive collection and analysis of consumer data may create concerns regarding privacy, security, and the appropriate use of personal information. Therefore, organisations need to balance the pursuit of data-driven marketing benefits with responsible and transparent management of consumer data. Failure to address these issues may reduce consumer trust and limit the effectiveness of AI-enabled marketing initiatives.

Despite the expanding body of research on marketing analytics, AI, personalisation, customer behaviour, and digital marketing, the literature remains fragmented. Many studies have focused on individual analytical techniques or specific technological applications rather than examining consumer analytics as an integrated organisational capability. This study addresses this gap by proposing a conceptual framework that unifies Artificial Intelligence, Consumer Analytics Capabilities, Digital Marketing Strategies, and Digital Marketing Outcomes within a single model. The framework posits that AI provides the technological foundation for advanced consumer analytics; consumer analytics converts data into actionable customer insights; these insights inform the development of effective digital marketing strategies; and these strategies lead to improved customer and marketing outcomes.

FUTURE RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

This conceptual paper suggests numerous directions for future investigation. To improve the suggested framework's generalizability, empirical studies should be conducted across various industries, organizational contexts, and geographic regions. Future research should look into the moderating effects of aspects including analytics maturity, organizational culture, and digital transformation capabilities. Comparative studies of emerging and mature economies, as well as research into the influence of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and real-time analytics, can help to broaden our understanding. Furthermore, ethical considerations relating to consumer privacy, data governance, and algorithmic transparency, as well as longitudinal research on the long-term effects of consumer analytics capabilities on digital marketing success and organizational competitiveness, deserve greater attention.

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