

# Personalization and Customer Experience in E-Commerce

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**Abstract:-** Innovation is crucial for maintaining a competitive edge and delivering exceptional shopping experiences in the ever-evolving realm of e-commerce. Businesses continuously seek creative approaches to enhance the e-commerce landscape, incorporating technologies like immersive experiences, seamless payment solutions, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and personalized services. This study investigates the emerging technologies and innovations within e-commerce, particularly focusing on the application and impact of AI. Utilizing conceptual research methodology and secondary data from various scholarly articles, journals, and online sources, the study concludes that recent innovations such as AI-driven personalization, Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR), chatbots, blockchain for transaction security and supply chain management, social commerce, drone delivery, and e-wallet solutions have significantly advanced the e-commerce sector. Noteworthy AI applications include platforms like Google AI Cloud Platform, IBM Watson, BigML, and Infosys Nia, which are also leveraged for product pricing and distribution strategies. Additionally, the adoption of diverse payment methods such as e-wallets and UPI contributes to enhancing user satisfaction in e-commerce transactions.

**Keywords:-** E-Commerce, Innovations, Social Commerce, Artificial Intelligence(AI), M-Commerce.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The internet has fundamentally transformed the global business landscape, opening up new opportunities for companies worldwide. This technological advancement has catalyzed the rise of electronic commerce (e-Commerce) on a global scale. The widespread adoption and increasing usage of the internet have significantly facilitated the growth of e-Commerce in the corporate environment. Today, e-commerce is rapidly expanding and reshaping business models across various industries. Organizations stand to benefit from effective e-commerce implementation in numerous ways, including substantial cost savings, revenue maximization, improved customer service, and streamlined product delivery.

Artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, cryptocurrency, and social marketing have collectively enhanced user experiences and satisfaction immensely. Recent innovations in payment methods such as e-wallets, buy now pay later options, and unified payment interfaces (UPI) are being adopted by companies to cater to diverse customer preferences. Personalized user experiences driven by artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies are now feasible, leveraging their capabilities to significantly boost e-commerce profitability. The integration of chatbots into the architecture and design of many e-commerce platforms further enhances the overall user experience.

E-commerce companies are increasingly recognizing the unique and critical role that artificial intelligence will play in the future, particularly in enhancing performance. Consequently, proactive efforts are underway to develop innovative solutions that integrate AI across marketing, logistics, and the entire value chain. AI enables online retailers to leverage machine learning capabilities to effectively cater to the growing number of customers, making it a top priority for the majority of e-commerce businesses. By harnessing AI, businesses can access extensive structured data, which, after processing and analysis, enables them to offer online shoppers a more personalized and enhanced purchasing experience.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The e-commerce industry has experienced significant growth in terms of revenue and market share, attributed to several factors such as increased disposable income, improved internet infrastructure, and supportive government regulations (Bhuyan et al., 2021). Dominated by a handful of major players, both domestic and international, the e-commerce market competes vigorously across various sectors including grocery, fashion, and electronics (Prasad et al., 2020). Changing consumer behaviors, driven by rising digital literacy and widespread adoption of smartphones, have led to a notable surge in online shopping. Customers of all demographics increasingly favor e-commerce platforms for their accessibility and convenience (Raju, 2020). To sustain this growth, significant improvements in logistics infrastructure have been crucial. Investments in supply chain optimization, instant delivery services, and warehousing enhancements have notably increased the efficiency and speed of product delivery (Venkatesh, 2021).

The proliferation of smartphones and affordable data plans has driven the growth of mobile commerce (m-commerce). M-commerce is expected to continue expanding due to its convenience and ability to provide personalized experiences (Kumar & Raj, 2021). As smartphone adoption rates rise, the emphasis on mobile optimization, including streamlined interfaces and tailored experiences, will be paramount for e-commerce platforms (Bhattacharya et al., 2021). The integration of e-commerce with social media platforms, known as "social commerce," is also gaining popularity. Social networks are increasingly influential in product recommendations, discovery, and purchase decisions for consumers, presenting new business opportunities for e-commerce enterprises (Hazarika & Mishra, 2021).

E-commerce is undergoing a significant evolution thanks to artificial intelligence (AI), enabling personalized experiences, advanced search functionalities, and targeted marketing efforts. AI-driven technologies such as chatbots, virtual assistants, and recommendation engines are enhancing consumer satisfaction and engagement (Bhardwaj et al., 2021). The integration of artificial intelligence into e-commerce operations is expected to expand in the future. Tools powered by AI, such as voice assistants, augmented reality, and predictive analytics, will enhance supply chain management, customer service, and personalization (Shah et al., 2021).

The seamless integration of online and offline channels, known as omni-channel retailing, is poised to grow in the e-commerce market. Retailers are focusing on delivering consistent shopping experiences across various touchpoints, including physical stores, online platforms, and mobile applications (Pandey et al., 2021).

There is significant untapped e-commerce potential in rural India. Enhanced internet connectivity, infrastructure development, and customized services are paving the way for e-commerce expansion into rural markets, creating new opportunities (Verma & Singh, 2021).

Improving customer convenience and promoting cashless transactions are crucial for enhancing the digital payment ecosystem. Investments in mobile wallets, secure payment gateways, and innovative technologies will drive e-commerce growth (Paul et al., 2020).

Efforts to ensure swift and efficient order fulfillment require enhancements in fast delivery infrastructure. Creative solutions such as real-time tracking systems, drone deliveries, and partnerships with local vendors are addressing these challenges (Dutta et al., 2021).

Ensuring data security and cultivating trust are critical for the sustained success of e-commerce. Promoting consumer awareness, enforcing stringent data protection regulations, and strengthening cybersecurity measures are pivotal in instilling confidence in online transactions (Saxena et al., 2021).

The landscape of online shopping is evolving as social media and e-commerce increasingly converge. To boost sales and enhance customer loyalty, social commerce platforms are leveraging influencers, user-generated content, and interactive social engagement (Singh & Chintagunta, 2021).

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study takes a conceptual and exploratory approach, with the researcher investigating various studies in the field of e-commerce.

#### ➤ *Research Objectives:*

- To explore emerging technologies and innovations in e-commerce.
- To assess the application and influence of Artificial Intelligence in e-commerce.

#### ➤ *Data Collection:*

- The study utilized secondary data sourced from research articles, magazines, websites, journals, and other relevant sources.

### IV. EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN THE FIELD OF E-COMMERCE

#### ➤ *AI and ML Powered Personalization*

Personalized shopping experiences driven by artificial intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) represent significant advancements in e-commerce. These technologies work behind the scenes to deliver tailored shopping experiences. AI algorithms analyze consumer behavior, interests, and past purchases to provide individualized product recommendations and targeted marketing efforts. By leveraging AI, e-commerce companies can enhance consumer engagement and boost conversion rates through personalized experiences tailored to their audience. AI-powered chatbots provide immediate customer service, while machine learning algorithms sift through vast datasets to predict user preferences and suggest relevant products. With AI enhancing pricing strategies, inventory management, and even fraud detection, e-commerce is poised for a dynamic and forward-looking future.

#### • *Advantages of AI and ML-Powered Personalization:*

##### ✓ *Enhanced Insights:*

AI enables businesses to analyze large volumes of data, providing deeper insights into individual consumer preferences.

##### ✓ *Enhanced Advertising Targeting:*

AI improves ad targeting accuracy, leading to more cost-effective and efficient marketing campaigns.

✓ *Intelligent Product Recommendations:*

AI suggests products that complement customers' current purchases, enhancing personalized recommendations and increasing sales.

✓ *Improved Customer Support:*

AI-powered chatbots go beyond scripted responses, utilizing sentiment analysis and natural language processing to deliver enhanced customer service experiences.

✓ *Enhanced Search Results:*

AI's understanding of human language nuances ensures relevant search results, even with imprecise search queries.

✓ *Valuable Customer Insights:*

AI provides businesses with valuable customer data to enhance customer experiences, address pain points, and optimize offerings and processes.

➤ *Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL)*

Customers have the flexibility to purchase items both online and in-store using the convenient Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) option, which enables them to defer payment. Factors such as the growing adoption of BNPL services among young consumers, increased merchant acceptance, digitalization trends, and the emergence of new financial institutions like Bajaj Finance are contributing to the industry's growth. The popularity of BNPL among youth is further fueled by its ability to facilitate installment purchases of high-value items such as laptops and smartphones.

➤ *Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)*

The integration of AR and VR into e-commerce is groundbreaking. These immersive technologies offer dynamic and captivating shopping experiences that have the potential to revolutionize the industry completely. Augmented Reality (AR) allows customers to view products in real-life settings, aiding in informed decision-making. Virtual Reality (VR) takes it a step further by creating virtual shopping environments where customers can interact with products in a highly engaging manner, such as trying on clothing in a virtual fitting room or visualizing furniture in their home before purchase.

Beyond enhancing consumer satisfaction, AR and VR technologies are also reducing product returns by providing more accurate product representations. Businesses are at the forefront of adopting these technologies in response to consumer demand for personalized and engaging shopping experiences.

➤ *Block-Chain Based Supply Chain and Securing the Future of Transactions*

Blockchain technology has the potential to significantly enhance the efficiency of the e-commerce supply chain. Its decentralized and transparent architecture enables secure and efficient tracking of products from production through to distribution. By leveraging blockchain, businesses can improve supply chain visibility, reduce fraud, and enhance customer trust through the verification of product authenticity and traceability.

The adoption of blockchain technology, particularly in relation to cryptocurrencies, has the capability to revolutionize e-commerce by ensuring secure and transparent transactions. Beyond its association with virtual currencies, blockchain provides an immutable ledger that enhances transparency and confidence within supply chains. In the future of e-commerce, blockchain is poised to find applications ranging from product accountability to automated contract management. Companies implementing blockchain technology can bolster transaction security and increase customer confidence in their operations.

➤ *Chat-Bots and Voice Assistance*

The landscape of online shopping is evolving with the rise of voice-activated virtual assistants such as Google Assistant and Alexa. Conversational artificial intelligence (AI) and voice assistants have emerged as pivotal innovations in e-commerce. The ability to conduct transactions through voice commands, also known as voice commerce or v-commerce, signifies a significant shift in how consumers interact with e-commerce platforms moving forward. Through voice commands, customers can make purchases, inquire about products, and receive personalized recommendations.

Businesses can address the growing demand for voice-enabled devices by integrating voice commerce functionalities, offering a hands-free and seamless shopping experience on their platforms. Adapting to this new paradigm involves optimizing websites for voice search and implementing voice-activated shopping features as speech recognition technology continues to advance.

➤ *Mobile Commerce (m-Commerce)*

The rise in smartphone adoption has spurred the expansion of the Mobile Commerce (M-Commerce) sector. Businesses are adapting to the trend of consumers increasingly using mobile apps for their shopping needs by developing Progressive Web Apps (PWAs) and responsive designs. The future of e-commerce lies in seamlessly integrating mobile experiences; user-friendly apps and mobile-optimized websites collaborate to provide an immersive shopping experience for the growing mobile consumer base.

➤ *Social Commerce*

The landscape of online shopping is evolving with the emergence of social commerce, a significant e-commerce trend for 2024 that integrates social media platforms with online shopping. Social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram are integrating shopping functionalities, enabling users to discover and purchase products directly within the app. Influencers play a crucial role in this market by endorsing products and facilitating seamless transitions from product discovery to purchase.

Businesses leveraging social commerce effectively can expand their reach to a broad audience and transform social interactions into tangible sales.

➤ *Subscription-Based Models*

Driven by customer demand for convenience and personalized experiences, the subscription-based e-commerce model is gaining popularity. Businesses are exploring innovative ways to offer consistent and hassle-free access to products and services. Beyond providing a steady revenue stream, the subscription model fosters brand loyalty among customers who appreciate personalized and reliable experiences.

➤ *Same Day Delivery and Instant Pickup*

Innovations in e-commerce, including rapid shipping and instant pickup options, provide significant benefits to both customers and businesses. These advancements ensure customers can conveniently and quickly receive their orders. With lightning-fast delivery, customers can receive goods within just a few hours, while instant pickup counters allow for retrieval in minutes, which is particularly valuable for urgent needs. These improvements not only distinguish retailers from competitors but also enhance customer loyalty, offering businesses a competitive advantage.

➤ *Single-Click Checkout*

The primary reason for lost sales is the lengthy and cumbersome checkout process. Research indicates that approximately 17% of consumers abandon their carts due to complexities or delays during checkout. This is a common issue on many websites that have not streamlined their checkout procedures, impacting their revenue potential. The most effective solution is to implement a one-click checkout system where orders are completed through a single-page payment form. Once customers input their information, the payment processor securely stores it for future transactions. This approach significantly reduces cart abandonment rates by eliminating a major source of frustration for online shoppers.

➤ *Digital Storefronts*

A "digital storefront" is a virtual representation of a company and its brand, mirroring the familiar elements of traditional brick-and-mortar stores. It provides a personalized experience and strives to maintain a direct connection with customers. Digital storefronts include features such as product listings, images, detailed descriptions, pricing information, and customer reviews, all essential components of an online retail environment. By leveraging digital storefronts, businesses can enhance their online sales, expand their audience reach, and cultivate a larger customer base.

➤ *Re-Marketing*

Remarketing is a powerful tool in e-commerce innovation that targets customers who have previously shown interest in your products or services. By displaying tailored advertisements to these customers, it increases conversion rates and improves your return on investment (ROI). This strategy helps maintain your brand's relevance to potential buyers by reminding them of your offerings and encouraging them to make a purchase. Additionally, remarketing provides valuable insights into consumer behavior that can be used to refine marketing campaigns and

optimize your overall e-commerce strategy.

➤ *E-Wallet*

E-wallet technology provides numerous advantages for e-commerce innovation, offering consumers a secure and convenient method to make online purchases. With e-wallets, customers can store their payment information centrally, streamlining and simplifying the checkout process. Furthermore, e-wallets can synchronize with digital wallets and bank accounts, enabling users to store this data on their phones alongside other essential documents like health cards and driver's licenses.

➤ *Sustainable e-Commerce*

There is a growing trend towards sustainable e-commerce as consumers increasingly prioritize environmental concerns. Customers actively seek out environmentally friendly products and support companies that prioritize sustainability. By adopting sustainable practices such as using eco-friendly packaging, promoting ethical sourcing, and reducing carbon emissions, businesses can differentiate themselves in the market and appeal to environmentally conscious consumers. Embracing environmentally friendly e-commerce not only enhances consumer loyalty but also strengthens brand reputation.

➤ *Drone Delivery*

In the past century, there has been a clear trend towards replacing humans with robots. Automated machinery initially transformed industries such as food production and automotive assembly lines. With the evolution of e-commerce, artificial intelligence and machine learning are further reducing the need for human intervention. One of the latest innovations in this field is drone delivery for both food and products, offering retailers advantages such as cost savings and time efficiency. Amazon pioneered this technology, and in 2016, Domino's, a prominent player in the food industry, used a drone to deliver a pizza in New Zealand, showcasing its potential in practical applications.

## V. THE APPLICATION AND IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN E-COMMERCE

AI's global influence is reshaping software development, gaining traction in various industries, including the business sector where many firms are adopting these technologies (Musleh Al-Sartawi, 2021). Companies are strategically investing in AI with expectations of significant economic returns in the near future (Jiao, 2018). Advanced analytics and AI algorithms are enhancing software development, facilitating real-time, large-scale decision-making (Luo et al., 2019).

E-commerce fundamentally leverages communication and computing technologies to integrate economic activities among commercial entities and their clients of all sizes. AI technologies are increasingly penetrating e-commerce sectors such as trade and business operations (Yao-Zhi et al., 2019). AI not only simplifies product selection but also

offers personalized recommendations (Khrais, 2020), influences trade negotiations, optimizes product scheduling, and enhances service provider capabilities. Additionally, AI systems are utilized to determine optimal pricing strategies for commodities in the global market (Musleh Al-Sartawi, 2021). In supply chain management, AI is employed to scale operations and enhance resource profitability (Cockburn, 2019).

Businesses encounter challenges when determining optimal pricing strategies based on current market conditions and bundling products (Kolodin et al., 2020). Utilizing intelligent technologies helps reduce the dependency on highly skilled staff to handle customer inquiries effectively (Luo et al., 2019). To ensure customer satisfaction, manufacturers need a clear understanding of their product offerings, positioning, presentation, and pricing strategies (Kumar and Trakru, 2019).

The e-commerce sector has seen substantial growth, largely driven by advancements in data analytics. Some companies now leverage limited consumer behavior and interest data to maximize advertising ROI (Hannoon, 2021). Managing large volumes of data presents challenges, prompting businesses to invest heavily in effective marketing strategies, with AI playing a pivotal role in automating and optimizing campaigns (Kolodin et al., 2020). Platforms like AI applications facilitate automated management of marketing campaigns, minimizing human intervention (Di Vaio et al., 2020).

Artificial intelligence platforms demonstrate sophisticated capabilities that align closely with human cognition (Karolak et al., 2021). Globally, these platforms are increasingly recognized for their ability to:

➤ *Automate and Optimize Marketing Campaigns Efficiently*

• *Google Cloud AI Platform*

This platform offers a range of capabilities essential for developing cloud-based software, including machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing, speech recognition, and computer vision. Specifically:

✓ *Speech:*

Utilizing neural network models, the platform enables functionalities for text-to-speech and speech-to-text conversion, supporting audio transcription in 120 languages from formats such as MP3 or LINEAR16 (Davenport and Ronanki, 2018).

✓ *Vision:*

The platform is equipped with APIs that leverage machine learning models to identify objects, faces, and both handwritten and printed texts. These capabilities are accessible through REST and RPC APIs (Khrais, 2020).

• *Microsoft Azure AI Platform*

Software developers are attracted to this platform as a favored choice for integrating artificial intelligence, thanks to its capabilities in speech, machine learning, computer vision, and language processing (Song et al., 2019).

• *IBM Watson*

Besides catering to advertising, this platform provides solutions across diverse sectors including financial services, IoT, media, healthcare, and oil and gas, adaptable to any cloud environment. It supports seamless integration and offers developers training in a versatile information architecture (Khrais, 2019). Its array of developer tools aims to accelerate the development and deployment of models on these platforms (Yao-Zhi et al., 2019).

• *BigML*

It offers robust machine learning capabilities and supports popular programming languages such as Ruby, Java, Python, Node.js, and Swift (Khrais, 2020).

• *Infosys Nia*

Infosys Nia empowers software developers to build AI-driven applications through its platform, offering capabilities such as machine learning, contract analysis, chatbot creation, and various analytics solutions (Soni et al., 2019).

AI possesses the capability to automate digital marketing services, leading to significant time and cost savings (Hannoon et al., 2021). Here are some advantages of utilizing AI programs:

✓ *Customer Insights:*

AI utilizes data analysis to predict customer decisions and buying patterns.

✓ *Enhanced User Satisfaction:*

By harnessing AI data, businesses can meet customer needs and deploy chatbots for technical support (Arrieta, 2020).

✓ *Improved Marketing Strategies:*

AI enables strategic marketing planning based on thorough data analysis, moving beyond intuition (Sanad and Al-Sartawi, 2021).

✓ *Increased Efficiency:*

AI algorithms automate repetitive tasks, enhancing productivity and saving time and resources for businesses and clients alike (Nadikattu, 2020).

The landscape of technology and consumer behavior is evolving unpredictably, necessitating ongoing adaptation in the field of digital marketing. Therefore, it is crucial for businesses to stay informed about emerging trends and developments (Tussyadiah and Miller, 2028).

Since the advent of artificial intelligence, e-commerce businesses have been striving to devise optimal marketing strategies for their products (Kolodin et al., 2020). Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have increasingly become integral to companies' marketing efforts, thanks to AI (Soni et al., 2019). The objective of AI programs is to support these initiatives and the tools and strategies employed to manage them, all autonomously (Khrais, 2020). AI-powered chatbots are becoming more intelligent, revolutionizing customer interactions across e-commerce and other commercial sectors (Karolak et al., 2021). This advancement has enhanced user convenience and streamlined communication with brands (Chia-Chen et al., 2019), leveraging natural language processing for effective user engagement (Musleh Al-Sartawi, 2021). Chatbots now outperform traditional customer support, particularly in sales and marketing contexts (Kumar and Trakru, 2019), leading to increased revenue generation facilitated by AI programs (Fu et al., 2019).

## VI. CONCLUSION

E-commerce has revolutionized shopping by enabling convenient global purchases with a simple click. Technological advancements have expanded e-commerce beyond basic online transactions. It's crucial for both consumers and businesses to stay informed and adapt to ongoing trends as the e-commerce landscape evolves. Staying ahead of competitors and embracing innovative strategies and technologies positions businesses strongly in this dynamic industry. Technologies like AR, VR, AI, blockchain, and sustainability are driving rapid changes in e-commerce, enhancing consumer experiences, reducing return rates, and personalizing the shopping journey. Companies in the fast-evolving e-commerce sector can enhance customer satisfaction and increase revenue by leveraging these advancements.

E-commerce businesses can build customer trust by offering competitive pricing, robust service guarantees, efficient logistics, diverse payment options, 24/7 customer support, and effective fraud prevention measures. Increasingly, companies are investing in artificial intelligence to address challenges such as authenticating product reviews, reducing operational costs, and improving product recommendations. AI technology is becoming increasingly influential across digital platforms like Facebook, Snapchat, and online shopping applications, driving substantial growth.

As technology advances and consumer preferences evolve, significant changes in e-commerce payment methods are anticipated. Businesses must adapt by integrating advanced payment solutions and prioritizing secure, seamless transactions to thrive in this fast-paced environment. Finally, ongoing technological advancements continue to surprise us with innovations that simplify business operations and accelerate progress towards success.

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