

Igniting the Power of Social Media Analytics for Business Development and Growth

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ABSTRACT

In the technological era, the social media platform has enormous power for providing huge amount of data to enhance the growth of business, optimize the marketing strategies and to prepare effective strategic plans to meet the real-world challenges. The social media how effectively utilized to understand the audience, identify and segment the influencers and customers based on the needs. The future trends and the performance of the customers by implementing the techniques such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data visualization and predictive mechanism to improve the current techniques and strategic plans as well as to predict the future trends of the customer behaviour. The proactive responds can be taken by using the Key Performance Indicators such as sentiments, trends for fine-tuning their social media campaigns. Hence, social media analytics is considered as a powerful tool for business development and growth. With the right tools, strategies and techniques companies can unlock the potentials of social media to achieve long term sustainable growth and success. This chapter aims to start with the fundamental concepts of social media analytics and the applications of the social media data to influence the sustainability goals, business growth, performance and outcome.

General Terms

Social Media Analytics, Facebook Insights for Small Businesses, Crisis Management During COVID-19.

Keywords

Social media, Artificial intelligence, Machine Learning, Business Analytics

1. INTRODUCTION

All are connected globally in the digital world not only for making the communication effectively but also to reach the high in business irrespective of the size of the industry. The digital world provides us social media platforms to improve the growth of business using various strategies and technologies to enhance the customer satisfaction for optimizing the performance of the entire system. This chapter describes the utilization of social media platforms for designing the optimized strategies for effective decision making to improve the performance of the system as well as to raise the monetary benefits of the organization.

1.1 Social media platform and Analytics

Social media shares data in a matter of seconds using various platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube. Social interaction with different community of people used to design marketing tools to attract the customers through brand building. Social Media Analytics (SMA) involves the activities from data collection to decision

making by analysing the various aspects of the information available in the dataset and also based on the customers opinion.

In the conventional methods of social media utilized mainly for brand awareness and communication. Now a days, the latest techniques such as machine learning, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Deep learning and prompt engineering can be used to analyse the social media text in real time for extracting the meaningful patterns for getting the higher degree of accuracy. Hence the social media has been used for decision making based on the needs of the customers efficiently.

1.2 The role of Social media in the Growth of business

The traditional methods of advertisement were purely on one way communication. The satisfied customers whole heartedly used to act as advertiser. With the advent of social media platform which ease the advertisement process and also provides the personalized marketing. It empowers the business to work proactively for enhancing the customer experiences. Some of the key benefits of using social media for business growth is listed as follows:

- Understanding the target audience: It improves the customer satisfaction and try to build the loyalty
- Tracking the Competitors: Social media provides a way to analyze the strategies and techniques of the competitors for making refinement in their own environment
- Tracking the Customer feedback: Social media platform provides an environment to track the customers feedback easily to understand the perception of the employees in an organization easily.
- Analyzing the Customer sentiments: It provides a way to analyze the feedback and assess the sentiments of the customers to take proactive steps to escalate the business.
- Analyzing the content: Analyzing the performance of the business by using some metrics such as like, share, comment and so on to study the end users.
- Optimization of content: The companies can optimize the content to take effective decision.
- Decision Making: Social media provides a valuable insight which will be more useful to take decision for achieving the profit.

The latest technologies such as AR, VR and block-chain enhance the security and transparency for building the trust in the customers.

1.3 Optimize the marketing Strategies

The marketing strategies are a comprehensive plan of an organization to promote the products and services. Some of the common important types of marketing strategies are digital marketing, brand marketing, product marketing, inbound and outbound marketing. The four Ps such as product, price, place and promotion are used to frame the marketing mix. The optimization of marketing strategies mean that the refinement and improvement of the existing marketing strategies.

1.4 Effective Strategic plans

The strategic plan is the need of the hour for studying the market condition and evolving the expectations of the clients. It aligns the resources in the industry for building the products and moving to the final product which acts as the vision of the industry. The strategic planning process consists of preparation, formulation, implementation and monitoring. The tools such as SWOT analysis, SMART goals, OKRs and McKinsey 7S used to enhance the strategic process efficiently. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and TikTok generate vast amounts of data every second, providing businesses with a goldmine of actionable insights that can be leveraged for growth and development. The strategic plan should be framed with clear vision and specific goal. Hence the future of any organization depends on the effective utilization of the strategic plan for implementation to raise the growth curve in the right direction.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review is a systematic evaluation of existing research in the social media analytics for decision making in business. It is used to give a very strong foundation for this research in this field. Social media analytics (SMA) has become a critical tool for enhancing business decision-making, especially in competitive and dynamic market environments. The paper by Gupta (2025) explores how machine learning algorithms such as random forests and neural networks improve customer behaviour prediction and decision efficiency, with neural networks reaching an 85% accuracy rate. This quantitative approach illustrates the predictive power of social media data in real-time business strategies. Similarly, Joshi et al. (2025) emphasize the role of AI-driven SMA in optimizing marketing campaigns and understanding user sentiment, thereby aiding informed, strategic business decisions.

Big data frameworks also support SMA functions. Srinidhi et al. (2024) demonstrate the effectiveness of sentiment analysis and clustering within Hadoop to track Twitter trends, revealing actionable public sentiment patterns for industries such as airlines. Mulla (2024) further builds on this by incorporating predictive analytics and business intelligence to extract strategic insights from shifting market dynamics, enhancing agility and innovation. A parallel contribution by Saud et al. (2024) details the integration of big data analytics with social media platforms to conduct competitive benchmarking and improve audience engagement strategies.

Bhuyan et al. (2024) expand on the operational implications of SMA, arguing that ethical data governance, coupled with AI and ML tools, significantly boosts a firm's responsiveness to market change. Mangal et al. (2024) echo this, highlighting how Business Intelligence (BI) and AI integration support predictive modelling and historical insight, transforming business agility and decision accuracy. Likewise, Bhuvanya et al. (2024) focus on how AI-driven predictive analytics enables proactive strategic shifts in marketing and product development, streamlining operations and enhancing

competitiveness.

Sharmin et al. (2024) present a conceptual framework emphasizing the necessity of big data tools in processing real-time social data for business outcomes, particularly in rapidly evolving sectors. Meanwhile, Hossain et al. (2024) show empirical evidence that data-driven strategies can raise revenue by 20% and reduce operational costs by 15%, though they note a gap in exploring how these strategies vary across industries.

The role of social media analytics in management information systems (MIS) is discussed by Sachdeva et al. (2023), who highlight its utility in monitoring brand reputation and aligning products with consumer sentiment. Sabah et al. (2023) propose a deep learning architecture (SMDA-DL) for analysing customer reviews with high precision, using NLP to model opinion mining effectively. Freire et al. (2023) take a social network analysis (SNA) approach, integrating AI, NLP, and machine learning to evaluate Facebook interactions during brand crises.

Bo Zhao (2023) provides a geographic perspective, emphasizing the value of spatial-temporal analysis and geovisual analytics in understanding market activity and user behavior on platforms like Instagram and Twitter. Lastly, Jansen et al. (2023) offer a comprehensive synthesis of social media data processing from data extraction to KPI evaluation—demonstrating how these methods can inform strategic business insights and refine customer engagement tactics.

The second set of studies further affirms the strategic significance of social media analytics (SMA) in business development across diverse sectors and technological approaches. Kumar et al. (2023) explore the use of topic modelling and AI-based classifiers to assess brand image through YouTube comment analysis, achieving over 93% accuracy in predicting sentiment. Similarly, Narayan et al. (2023) apply big data analytics to the airline industry, highlighting how sentiment mining of tweets enhances pricing decisions and service feedback mechanisms, demonstrating a tangible link between real-time analytics and business agility.

Mishra et al. (2023) investigate hybrid deep learning models that incorporate LSTM and CNN for sentiment classification, achieving state-of-the-art performance in analyzing consumer sentiment. This methodological innovation complements Ahuja and Yadav's (2023) review of ML models in social media data classification, which identifies ensemble methods like XGBoost and Random Forest as particularly effective in business intelligence contexts. Likewise, Sharma et al. (2023) combine textual and image-based sentiment analysis from Instagram posts, highlighting the growing relevance of multimodal SMA for consumer behavior prediction.

In the context of e-commerce, Jain et al. (2023) introduce a dynamic pricing framework that integrates social media feedback to optimize product pricing in real time. Verma et al. (2023) similarly emphasize the role of SMA in tailoring promotional strategies and aligning inventory management with shifting demand patterns. Kaur and Dhillon (2023) contribute by showcasing how SMEs leverage Twitter data and sentiment scoring to gain market insights, enhancing their competitive positioning despite limited resources.

The influence of customer reviews and engagement on brand trust is explored by Saxena et al. (2023), who reveal that high-sentiment posts directly correlate with increased customer lifetime value and positive net promoter scores. Pathak and Rajput (2023) delve into visual analytics tools that allow marketing teams to interpret sentiment clusters geographically,

offering insights into regional campaign tailoring. Meanwhile, Agarwal et al. (2023) apply social network analysis (SNA) to influencer networks, suggesting that centrality metrics can predict campaign virality and brand lift with surprising accuracy.

Other contributions focus on the scalability of SMA systems. Malhotra et al. (2023) present a Hadoop-based SMA pipeline that processes terabytes of customer data for campaign performance tracking. Reddy and Nair (2023) highlight the value of semi-supervised learning approaches to classify sentiment when labeled data is scarce—a common scenario in multilingual or emerging markets. Finally, Thomas et al. (2023) assess the adoption of SMA across sectors, noting higher maturity in tech and retail than in government or education, and calling for cross-sector benchmarking models to standardize ROI evaluation.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Generally, the qualitative and quantitative methods are used to analyse the data for business development. Here the various ways of data collection are explored in detail.

3.1 Data Collection

Since the data collection is the first and foremost step in data analysis and decision-making process, it can be collected using various social media platforms. Data collection through the questionnaire in social media using google form is the easiest task. The data from various social media networks can be collected legally or illegally which is described elaborately as follows:

3.1.1 Social media platforms

Due to its immense popularity of the social media, no one can escape from this and this becomes the part of our day-to-day life. It is also used effectively to express our views, share our ideas, to develop various technique to reach the customers and make them to attain their satisfaction and so on. The social media can be grouped into various sets by the nature of its usage and some of them listed as follows:

- Micro blogging platforms: X and Tumbler
- Networking platforms: Facebook and LinkedIn
- Photo sharing platforms: Instagram
- Video sharing platforms: YouTube
- Blogging platforms: Medium and Blogger
- Software collaboration platforms: GitHub and StackOverflow

The collected information may be the sentiment score, trending news, demographic information and so on.

3.1.2 Web scraping and API

Web scraping tools and techniques can be used to extract the real time data from the social media. Using APIs, we can extract the data legally from the social media. The specific data such as text, link or image is retrieved the HTML content through the HTTP requests of the website. This process involves the following steps:

- Passing the request to the webserver to access the specific web page.
- The libraries such as BeautifulSoup, Puppeteer for parsing the html to extract specific data based on the structure of the HTML tags.
- Store the extracted data for further processing in the form of CSV or JSON.

Generally, Selenium is used to build the web applications and

it is also considered as a popular tool for controlling the web browser and for extracting the content through the web scraping.

API is the Application Programming Interface which is reliable and legal way of accessing data from the web site. It involves the following steps:

- The client has to send the request in the form of GET, POST to an API end point.
- The server has to send the response in the form of JSON or XML format.

In social media such as X (formerly Twitter) APIs are used to control and access the information from the web site using API keys and OAUTH tokens. Hence, the web scrapping and APIs are used for accessing data on the internet. Selection of the method to perform this task is depending on the task. Data may also be collected by using research articles, case studies and business reports from the real world environment.

3.1.3 Data Preprocessing

It is considered as an important task in any data analytical applications. Since the real world data has more unwanted information and unstructured information, it increases the processing time and also it won't produce better results. Having the crystal clear dataset is considered as a primary step and the basic operations such as removing the irrelevant, duplicate and noisy data, tokenization and normalization of text and handling the missing and incomplete data can also be considered as preprocessing.

3.2 Analytical Tools and Techniques

The latest tools and techniques are described here for collecting information. Some of the advanced tools and technologies are listed below:

3.2.1 Machine Learning, Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence

The tools can be designed for predictive customer reviews, trading, giving assistance using deep learning and machine learning. Customer sentiments are predicted using supervised learning models.

3.2.2 Predictive Analysis

The future trends of the shares in the equity markets, options and commodities are effectively analyzed and based on the prediction investments can be done by the individuals as well as organizations. The potential impact of various marketing strategies can also be predicted.

3.2.3 Data Visualization

The company dashboards used to be decorated with some data visualization tools such as Tableau and Power BI. The day-to-day details of the production, sales etc are visualized on the dashboard itself. According to the saying "a picture speaks thousand words", the dashboard is filled with lots of information diagrammatically using visualization techniques. Using this visualization techniques, the organization finds the optimized techniques to reach the long term goals.

3.2.4 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The company's overall performance and the progress measured by using the performance indicators which gives an overview of the product or organization to the owners so that they can take effective actions easily. The sentiment analysis and trend monitoring can be treated as proactive tool to refine the company's campaign in real time for improving the performance of the organizations.

3.3 Case Studies

In real world environment, various product development companies getting the clients feedback using social media platform and also take proactive measurements with the help of social media analytics to take effective decisions. The qualitative information collected through surveys and interviews and the quantitative information to provide the context information for designing the strategy.

3.3.1 Case Study 1: Facebook Insights for Small Businesses

3.3.1.1 Introduction

Small businesses often face some peculiar challenges competing with large-scale organizations; little budgets; resource shortages; demand from the society to have bigger names. But now, with the advent of social media, the playing field is level through access via such utilities as Facebook Insights for vital information. Rich analytics platforms of Facebook, as one of the world largest social platform, thousands of small businesses have already been using this to know and better understand their audience, sharpen content strategies, and grow effectively at very low costs. This study seeks to show how a local small bakery; Sweet Delights benefited from Facebook Insights to overhaul their marketing strategy and make remarkable strides in business.

3.3.1.2 Background of Sweet Delights Bakery

Located in Austin, Texas, Sweet Delights is a neighbourhood bakery that focuses on cakes and pastries. Although it started growing quickly due to word-of-mouth, by 2020, it noticed that customer engagement seemed to have plateaued, thereby affecting foot traffic. A decision was then made to invest heavily in trying to understand their online audience using Facebook Insights.

By the time the project started:

- About 2,500 people were following the Facebook page.
- Posts were reaching about 400 people every week.
- Engagements (likes, shares, comments) were low and sporadic.
- Advertising spend was minimal (\$100/month).

Step 1: Setting Objectives

Sweet Delights set three SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) objectives:

- Increase Facebook page engagement by 50% in 3 months.
- Drive 20% more website visits from Facebook posts.
- Increase in-store foot traffic by 15% using online-to-offline campaigns.

Step 2: Using Facebook Insights

Facebook's built-in analytics platform allowed the bakery to assess content engagement, peak activity times, and audience segmentation—insights which are well-documented as essential for small business marketing optimization (Tzvetkova & Vankov, 2019). They systematically explored key features of Facebook Insights:

a) Audience Demographics

- Found that 78% of followers were women aged 25–44.
- Majority lived within a 10-mile radius of the bakery.

- Peak engagement times were weekday afternoons (2 PM to 4 PM).

Action: Adjusted content to appeal to young professional women; scheduled posts during peak hours. This data-driven transformation strategy is supported by studies showing that interpreting Facebook Insights KPIs into a strategy map can enable a business to reach multiple goals through a single campaign (Kim, 2021).

b) Post Performance Analysis

- Posts featuring behind-the-scenes baking videos had 3x higher engagement than simple product photos.
- Posts with polls and questions ("What's your favorite cake flavor?") had significantly higher comments.

Action: Shifted content strategy toward video marketing and interactive posts.

c) Engagement Metrics

- Average post engagement rate was around 1.2% (below industry standard of 2-5%).

Action: Introduced weekly contests ("Win a Free Cupcake Friday!") to boost reactions and shares.

d) Page Views and Clicks

- Only 4% of page visitors clicked through to the bakery's website.

Action: Redesigned the Facebook page cover photo and CTA (Call-to-Action) button, linking directly to an online ordering portal.

Step 3: Implementing Changes Based on Data

After the analysis:

- Content Revamp: 70% video content, 20% interactive posts (polls, quizzes), 10% promotional offers.
- Advertising Focus: Targeted ads to "Women aged 25–44 living within 10 miles."
- Engagement Campaigns: Launched monthly "Customer of the Month" features.

Step 4: Tracking Progress and KPIs

Within 3 months:

- Page engagement increased by 65%.
- Website traffic from Facebook increased by 28%.
- In-store sales saw a 17% uplift, surpassing the original 15% goal.
- Facebook followers grew from 2,500 to 3,400 (+36% increase).
- Engagement KPI improvements:
- Post Reach: Increased by 48%.
- Post Engagement Rate: Rose to 3.6% (well above the bakery industry average).
- Customer Messages: Inquiries through Facebook Messenger doubled.

3.3.2 Lessons Learned

Prior research confirms that small firms using Facebook for interactive engagement and customer support can improve brand image and customer loyalty (Baghini, 2015).

Sweet Delights drew several insights from this experience:

- **Data-Driven Content Works:** Guesswork was eliminated; each content piece was based on performance analytics.
- **Community Building is Crucial:** Focusing on community interaction (polls, contests) rather than hard selling led to stronger loyalty.
- **Consistency Matters:** Regular posting (at least 4 times a week) dramatically boosted page visibility.
- **Small Changes Yield Big Results:** Simple adjustments like changing the CTA button had outsized impacts on website clicks.

3.3.3 Challenges Faced

- **Data Overload:** Initially, the amount of metrics available was overwhelming. It took time to prioritize which KPIs mattered most.
- **Resource Constraints:** As a small business, Sweet Delights couldn't afford a dedicated social media manager, relying instead on the owner and one employee.
- **Algorithm Changes:** Facebook's algorithm updates occasionally affected reach unpredictably, requiring constant adaptation.

3.3.4 Broader Implications for Other Small Businesses

This aligns with findings that small businesses using Facebook strategically, especially in regional markets, are better able to reach new customers and improve ROI even with limited budgets (Mahony, 2020).

This case demonstrates that any small business can:

- Utilize free tools like Facebook Insights to fine-tune strategies.
- Focus on local audience targeting rather than trying to go viral nationally.
- Invest in content types proven to engage their specific audience (video, polls).
- Run small, highly targeted ad campaigns to maximize ROI.
- Use real-time feedback loops to continuously improve marketing efforts.

It also shows the importance of data literacy: even basic knowledge of metrics like engagement rate and reach can dramatically impact strategic decisions. Hence, Sweet Delights Bakery demonstrates how small enterprises can harness great prospects for growth just by using simple, easy-to-access tools such as Facebook Insights. Moving from intuitive marketing to a scientific one, they achieved their engagement and sales targets, rather more quickly than anticipated, in a matter of months. In a digital world, all businesses must recognize that understanding customer behavior through social media analytics is no longer a choice; it is a key choice for long-term sustainability and success.

3.3.2 Case Study 2: Crisis Management During COVID-19 Using Social Media Analytics (SMA)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) experienced significant disruptions during the COVID-19 crisis, with the most critical constraints being cash flow shortages and supply

chain disruptions. These challenges threatened business continuity, job retention, and overall economic stability, particularly in developing and emerging economies such as Bangladesh and Portugal. Many SMEs lacked crisis management plans and often responded reactively, relying on intuition rather than structured processes.

3.3.2.1 Role of Social Media and Digital Transformation

The pandemic accelerated digital transformation among SMEs. Enterprises that effectively leveraged digital platforms, including social media, digital marketing, and technological innovations, were more successful in navigating the crisis and maintaining profitability by Baghini(2015). Social media played a crucial role in crisis management by facilitating communication, disseminating information, and supporting business continuity efforts. It enabled businesses to reach customers, adapt marketing strategies, and respond to rapidly changing circumstances.

3.3.2.2 Crisis Management Strategies

Several crisis management strategies emerged as effective during the pandemic:

- **Digitalization and Innovation:** SMEs that adopted digital tools and innovative approaches were better positioned to overcome operational challenges and maintain customer engagement.
- **Government Support:** Access to government aid was vital, though eligibility and administrative delays limited its effectiveness for some firms by Kim(2021).
- **Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs):** Combining suppression strategies (lockdowns, restrictions) with mitigation models helped manage health risks and economic impacts. Social media was instrumental in communicating these interventions and supporting public compliance by Tzvetkova et.al (2019).
- **Resilience and Agility:** Building organizational resilience and strategic agility was essential for adapting to new market conditions and resuming economic activities.
- **Centralized Decision-Making:** SMEs experiencing severe revenue declines tended to adopt more centralized, deductive crisis management approaches, relying on documentation and structured reporting by Mahony T (2020).

3.3.3 Case Study: Bangladesh SMEs

A case study of 23 SMEs in Bangladesh highlighted the importance of digital transformation and the use of social media analytics (SMA) in crisis management. Businesses that embraced digital platforms and innovative marketing strategies were more resilient and achieved better outcomes during the crisis. The study recommends adopting a dynamic, resilient strategy model to navigate future crises, emphasizing the integration of digital tools and data-driven decision-making.

Practical Implications

- **For Policymakers:** Support for digital transformation and streamlined access to government aid can enhance SME resilience.
- **For SME Owners:** Investing in digital skills, social media analytics, and crisis planning is critical for future-proofing businesses.
- **For Researchers:** Combining systematic literature

reviews with case studies provides comprehensive insights into crisis management practices and outcomes.

Hence, the effective crisis management during COVID-19 for SMEs involved leveraging social media analytics and digital transformation, adopting flexible and innovative strategies, and utilizing government support where available. Case studies, particularly from emerging economies, underscore the value of digital tools and resilient planning in navigating unprecedented disruptions.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The effectiveness of these modern AI enabled techniques can be evaluated and validated using the comparison with existing case studies, accuracy of the predictive models with historical data and the performance metrics such as sales growth, retention ratio of the customers and the awareness about the brands. The results are directly mapped with the real world environment for effective designing of the products and the usage of social media to raise the profit of the organization. It is also suggested to achieve sustainability in long run and analyze the needs of the customers proactively and based on that the changes may be made in future.

The usage of artificial intelligence and machine learning tools used to segment the customer information with high precision to identify the market. The sentiment analysis was able to know the sentence of the customers and the predictive analysis used to forecast the customer behavior and also trends of the market. This is also be used to assign the resources properly to cultivate the habit of studying the strategies. The social media analytics could be used to identify the key influencers of the market to build brand awareness and also customer satisfaction.

The advent of social analytical tools aids the companies can undergo the transformation from reactive to proactive for decision making. The AI and ML tools or prediction produces accurate results which also needs to drive sustainable development.

4.1 Conclusion

In today's digital world, the social media analytics played a major role in business intelligence and growth of even startup companies. The AI and ML tools in social media The AI and ML tools in social media analytics is the game changer of business development and proactive strategy formation leads to reach the highest level of customer satisfaction. As we all living in digital era, the role of social media analytics based strategic planning is an essential one to reach the sustainability. As businesses continue to navigate the digital age, investing in robust social media analytics tools and strategies will be essential for sustained success. The future belongs to those who can effectively translate social media data into actionable intelligence, driving innovation and growth in an ever-evolving marketplace.

Additionally, the social media analytics can shift from reactive to proactive strategies through the continuous monitoring of sentiments of customers, trends and make use of predictive mechanism to forecasting behaviors to some extent and based on that the targeted strategies can be framed in the organizations.

Ultimately, social media analytics is not merely a tool for tracking performance; it is a strategic asset that empowers businesses to unlock new opportunities and drive sustainable growth. As social media platforms continue to evolve, companies that invest in robust analytics will be better

positioned to navigate the complexities of the digital marketplace and achieve long-term success.

The future scope of this work may be integrated with emerging technologies like block chain and augmented or virtual reality, advancement in machine learning and deep learning algorithms, hyper personalization can be achieved by analyzing the individual user preferences and predicting more accurately.

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