

# The Impact Of Social Media On Customer Confusion In Beauty Products

**B. Sakthipriya**

Ph.D (Full Time), Research Scholar in Commerce,  
Rabiammal Ahamed Maideen College for Women,  
Thiruvavur

**Dr. G. T. Vijayalakshmi**

Principal & Research Advisor in Commerce,  
Rabiammal Ahamed Maideen College for Women,  
Thiruvavur

*Abstract: Beauty industry's growth spurred social media's influence pretty significantly and sites like Facebook or Instagram alter customer behavior radically nowadays. Consumers get perplexed pretty frequently due to risk associated with various fleeting beauty fads product plugs and bogus reviews online daily. Social media platforms strangely alter information overload and false info swirling around consumer expectations and muddle customer perceptions of beauty trends. Study utilizes primary data alongside secondary data gathered from various sources meticulously. Primary data gets collected from online surveys while secondary data is garnered from various websites such as Scopus and research gate. Targeted population comprises sixty individuals largely active on social media platforms as adults. Social media spawn's utter bewilderment among consumers largely due to trend fatigue misinformation and deceptively impressive reliability on various online platforms. Beauty brands should employ lucid marketing strategies and collaborate with social media influencers to foster trust amidst swirling consumer confusion online.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Social media has emerged as a potent influencer in moulding consumer behaviour particularly within the realm of beauty trends lately. Beauty product discovery and purchasing habits of consumers have been thoroughly revolutionized by platforms such as YouTube and Instagram lately. This digital shift has made beauty content ridiculously accessible and spawned a deluge of conflicting propaganda and bogus information online nowadays. Many consumers get bewildered apparently. Research questions in this investigation include whether frequency of social media usage significantly contributes to customer befuddlement in beauty product purchases. Does significant divergence exist between males and females regarding impact of social media on confusion surrounding beauty products? Extensive research has been conducted on social media's influence upon consumer behaviour especially within beauty industry sectors recently.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Solomon et al apparently found something noteworthy. (2019), social media has redefined the traditional consumer decision-making process by introducing a constant stream of user-generated content, peer reviews, and influencer recommendations. Social media redefined traditional consumer decision-making processes in 2019 by spewing out a deluge of user-generated content and influencer recommendations. This seismic shift has empowered consumers and led to a morass of data that researchers label information chaos mercilessly overwhelming many consumers. Numerous studies lately linked social media usage somewhat confusingly with consumer bewilderment among certain demographics online. Consumer confusion was conceived by Walsh and Mitchell in 2010 as a resultant state of overload from conflicting info and murky marketing tactics. Vague terms like natural and dermatologist-approved proliferate in beauty industry marketing often lacking regulatory standards somehow exacerbating confusion greatly.

Influencer marketing has been flagged rather controversially as major culprit behind consumer bewilderment lately in various quarters. Djafarova and Trofimenko found in 2019 that beauty influencers boost product visibility and trust yet peddle unverified products pretty frequently. Consumers often rely heavily on influencers rather than official brand messaging or expert opinion leading to potentially skewed notions of product efficacy. Rise of ingredient-focused marketing has added loads of complexity lately to consumer choices pretty significantly nowadays in various product categories. Research by Park and Lin in 2020 shows many consumers lack scientific literacy needed accurately to interpret such data on ingredient lists. They may subsequently make dubious decisions or get swamped due to lack of comprehensive insight. Beauty content flows unfiltered on social platforms and significantly contributes to consumer confusion necessitating transparency from brands and digital literacy among users. Beauty product choices often bewilder numerous consumers amidst a sea of info flooding social media platforms daily nowadays. Exposure to loads of conflicting advice and marketing fluff makes buying decisions really tough sometimes with many options available. Such confusion impacts consumer satisfaction and brand trust badly and can be misused grossly by exploiting expectations in various sneaky ways. Consumer contributions to beauty industry warrant scrutiny and ways must be detected somehow to mitigate its nasty effects fairly quickly.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A study examines impact of social media on customer confusion when purchasing beauty products and demographic differences among 60 surveyed respondents thoroughly. Demographic variations between social media usage and customer confusion are identified in beauty product purchasing decisions with considerable uncertainty. Data on social media usage consumer confusion and demographic variables are collected by conducting a survey of sixty respondents quickly. Primary and secondary data was gathered mostly in highly structured formats. Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis are performed in this study alongside multifaceted regression analysis quietly.

H0: Social media usage frequency has no positive impact on customer confusion in beauty products.

H1: Social media usage frequency has positive impact on customer confusion in beauty products.

If p value <0.05 and  $\beta$  is positive, reject H0 and accept H1.

H0: Age has no moderating effect on the relationship between social media and customer confusion in beauty products.

H2: Age has moderating effect on the relationship between social media and customer confusion.

If p value <0.05, reject H0 and accept H2.

### CORRELATION ANALYSIS

Variables	Co efficient	P value significant	Strength of relationship
Customer confusion & social media usage	0.632	0.00	Strong positive
Customer confusion & Age	0.281	0.035	Positive
Social media frequency & age	0.432	0.000	Positive

Source: primary data

Table 1.1

Social media usage frequency increases, customer confusion tends to increase significantly.  $r = 0.632$ . Customers tends to increase slight confusion when making purchase decisions.  $r = 0.3$  It indicates that customers are frequently using social media. 0.00

### REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Variables	Co efficient	Standard error	t-stat	p-value
Constant	1.245	0.234	5.323	0.000
Social media usage	0.421	0.073	5.762	0.000
Age	0.015	0.007	2.143	0.035

Source: primary data

Table 1.2

### CONSTANT

Co efficient 1,245 p value is significant.

### SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

Co efficient 0.421 for every 1 unit increases in social media usage customer confusion increases by 0.421 units. P value 0.000 that is significant which is social media affects the customer confusion.

### AGE

Co efficient 0.015 for every 1 unit increases in age, customer confusion increases by 0.015 units. P value 0.035 is significant that there is evidence than social media usage. Higher social media usage is strongly linked to higher customer confusion. Respondents have slightly higher customer confusion and use social media more. Social media usage frequency has strong positive correlation with customer confusion. so that the H1 is accepted. Null Hypotheses is rejected. Age has moderate positive correlation with customer confusion  $r = 0.281$ . Here also null hypotheses is rejected.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Influencers frequently tout some product as utterly life-changing while others simultaneously trash it as thoroughly overrated somehow online. Users often peddle skin care tips sans dermatological expertise causing utter befuddlement regarding genuinely efficacious treatments or perilous practices. Evolving beauty fads like glass skin and slugging spur users into frenzied product hopping with little regard for lingering consequences. Beauty influencers' proliferation has radically recalibrated consumer trust and many followers flounder differentiating genuine endorsements from paid promotional fluff nowadays. Influencers frequently employ dodgy filters and fancy editing gizmos that warp outcomes making products seem super effective really quickly.

Influencers often hype products recklessly without considering diverse skin tones or needs leaving followers utterly perplexed about actual suitability. Algorithm-driven exposure triggers fear of missing out and social media algorithms amplify trending content fuelling utter confusion somehow through repetition. Users feel intense pressure and panic buying latest ridiculously viral overpriced product even when it doesn't fit needs or suit personal budget constraints somehow. Beauty microtrends like freckle pens and peel-off lip tints swiftly materialize and vanish leading consumers down a path of novelty obsession. Social media platforms hype ingredient-centric content like retinol and hyaluronic acid pretty heavily and users get fixated on individual components. Users often think certain ingredients are super effective or terrible without really factoring in actual concentrations and sometimes conflicting combos.

Ingredient buzz generates quite a bit of confusion pretty naturally. DIY skincare culture has been enabled significantly by social platforms. TikTok users and YouTube personalities often post homemade face masks and serums that are dubiously effective or potentially irritating on delicate complexions. Technical jargon like comedogenic ratings and pH balance adds obscurity for unwary buyers browsing online product descriptions quite thoroughly nowadays. Beauty decisions get swayed heavily by societal buzz surrounding products and products gain cred mostly through sheer popularity rather than actual efficacy. Celebrities and influencers endorsing products triggers mass interest quite often irrespective of whether it suits individuals personally or not. Consumers wade through loads of wildly mixed reviews online leaving them pretty uncertain afterwards sometimes even more befuddled than before. Consumers can mitigate confusion spawned by social media by adopting a more discerning attitude and consulting dermatologists or licensed aesthetician's for bespoke advice backed by science. Understand personal needs: Knowing one's skin type, concerns, and sensitivities helps filter out irrelevant recommendations.

✓ Be critical of viral content: Not all trends are trustworthy or sustainable; a healthy scepticism can go a long way.

Knowing one's skin type and concerns deeply helps filter out loads of irrelevant product recommendations for sensitive individuals quite effectively. Viral trends vs. Be critically

wary of viral content because not all trendy stuff sticks around or proves trustworthy over time somehow. Misleading visuals: Filters and editing create unrealistic expectations, making consumers chase results that aren't achievable.

✓ Ingredient chaos: While platforms like TikTok popularize skincare ingredients (e.g., niacinamide, retinol), few posts explain correct usage—leading to product misuse or fear.

Social media spins wildly with info and trends that can befuddle users rather than enlighten them. Everyday folks and influencers alike share product tips with dubious credibility. Tips get lost in a deluge of conflicting advice from myriad sources online. Viral trends versus something else altogether. Hype surrounding latest skin fads often trumps sensible consideration of individual skin quirks and needs for most people. Filters and editing create unrealistic expectations making consumers chase unattainable results with obsessive fervour under false pretences quite often. Skincare ingredients like niacinamide and retinol get hyped on TikTok but correct usage often remains woefully unexplained fuelling misuse and fear. What was outcome subsequently? Consumers feel pretty unsure about what's actually effective for them and what fits their rather unique and specific needs nowadays. Social media empowers brands forming deeply personal relationships with consumers amidst utter chaos and targeted ads nurture obscurity within niche audiences. Brands sharing values like sustainability or radical inclusivity build deeply emotional connections that foster ardent loyalty quite naturally over time. Q&As and giveaways alongside user-generated content make consumers feel pretty seen and utterly heard strengthening trust very quietly. Positive reviews and tagged posts act as endorsements nudging new users pretty deeply toward brand commitment almost instinctively every time. Social media scatters consumers with myriad choices and gives brands tools remarkably effectively through various identity-based interactions and personal engagements.

#### V. CONCLUSION

As the use of social media increases, customer confusion also increases when the time of purchase. Social media treads precariously along a razor-thin edge where beauty enthusiasts gleefully uncover fresh trends but simultaneously scrutinize their own aesthetic decisions. Force that inundates users with myriad options can surprisingly forge deeply personal bonds through branding done thoughtfully and pretty sincere engagement.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Tristandinata, M. (2023). Consumer Confusion and Its Impact on Decision Making Among Female Consumers in Indonesia's Online Cosmetics and Personal Care Industry. *Journal of Social and Economics Research*. Examines how information overload, similarity, and ambiguity contribute to consumer confusion in online beauty contexts, and their effects on

- decision-postponement and cognitive dissonance
- [2] Liu, Z. (2025). Beauty in the Digital Age: How Social Media Shapes Gen Z's Cosmetic Trends, Consumer Behavior, and Its Ethical Concerns. *Advances in Economics, Management and Political Sciences*, Vol. 171, pp. 68–78. Explores influencer marketing, impulsive buying, regulatory gaps (e.g., MoCRA) and ethical considerations in social media beauty promotion
- [3] Djafarova, E. & Trofimenko, O. (2019). While the above is summarized earlier, also see: The credibility of social media beauty gurus in young millennials' cosmetic product choice. Investigates influencer credibility traits (knowledge, relatability, confidence) and their influence on purchase behaviour
- [4] Ekinci, U. et al. "The Dark Side of Social Media Influencers: A Research Agenda for Analysing Deceptive Practices and Regulatory Challenges" (*Psychology & Marketing*, Wiley). Highlights how influencer exposure can lead to attitude shifts and misbeliefs, unrealistic beauty norms, and enhanced comparison anxiety
- [5] Full article: The beauty complex: social media trends, effects, and opportunities (2024). Grounded in Social Cognitive Theory and Social Comparison Theory, it outlines modeling effects and self-comparisons that drive dissatisfaction and confusion
- [6] Sokolova & Kefi (2019), *Journal of Retailing & Consumer Services*. Discusses parasocial interaction and credibility effects (eWOM, influencer engagement) on purchase intention—especially relevant to trust, confusion and decision-making
- [7] Pandey et al. (2024). Navigating the green beauty boom: Unveiling the influence of social media on consumer behavior in the organic cosmetics industry (*European Journal of Sustainable Development Research*). Highlights how eWOM and influencer-driven green beauty trends lead to choice overload and confusion
- [8] Endorsements on Social Media: An Empirical Study of Affiliate Marketing Disclosures on YouTube and Pinterest (Mathur et al., 2018). Finds low disclosure rates, leading to misleading promotions and confusion
- [9] Analysis of counterfeit risk: Social Media Analysis for Product Safety using Text Mining and Sentiment Analysis (Isah et al., 2015). Shows how fake or misleading product sentiment spreads confusion and risk perceptions
- [10] Contextual framing from industry news: Customers are confused about 'clean' beauty: What can brands do? (*Vogue Business*). Highlights how ambiguous labels like "clean" cause confusion, driving consumers to seek clearer ingredient transparency.

#### WEBSITES

- [1] <https://15writers.com/sample-dissertations/social-media-purchase-intention/>
- [2] <https://www.unfoldedwriters.com/answer/impact-of-social-media-on-consumer-behaviour-in-purchasing-cosmetic-products/>
- [3] <https://fastercapital.com/content/Beauty-and-cosmetics-industry--The-Impact-of-Social-Media-on-Beauty-Standards.html>
- [4] <https://15writers.com/sample-dissertations/social-media-purchase-intention/>
- [5] <https://www.startquestion.com/survey-ideas/impact-of-social-media-marketing-on-consumer-purchase-intention-in-the-beauty-industry/>
- [6] <https://www.gwi.com/blog/social-media-for-beauty-industry>
- [7] <https://www.beautikue.com/social-media-effects-on-the-beauty-industry/>