

## **Impact of Social Media and Digital Marketing Strategies on Consumer Impulsive Buying Behavior**

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### **Abstract**

The rise of digital commerce has transformed consumer behaviour, with impulsive buying—marked by spontaneous, emotionally driven purchases—gaining prominence. This study explores how digital marketing strategies, specifically influencer marketing, paid advertisements, and personalized recommendations, shape impulsive buying tendencies in online shopping environments. Grounded in the Stimulus-Organism-Response (S-O-R) Model, Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), Self-Determination Theory (SDT), and Dual Process Theory, impulsive buying is driven by emotional and cognitive responses to marketing stimuli. Influencer marketing leverages social norms, paid ads evoke emotional triggers, and personalized recommendations fulfil intrinsic motivations, all amplifying System 1 (intuitive) decision-making. The research aims to analyse the impact of influencer marketing, paid advertisements, and personalized recommendations on unplanned purchases, emotional decisions, and instant gratification. Hypotheses (H1–H3) propose that these strategies positively influence impulsive buying, with influencer marketing expected to have the strongest effect. A quantitative approach was employed, using survey data from online shoppers. Correlation and regression analyses tested the relationships between digital marketing strategies and impulsive buying dimensions. Influencer marketing emerged as the most effective, driving emotional engagement and unplanned purchases. Personalized recommendations excelled in fostering instant gratification via AI-driven tailoring. Paid advertisements, while emotionally evocative, showed weaker influence on spontaneous purchases, suggesting a need for interactive formats. The study highlights the potency of emotionally engaging, personalized digital strategies in triggering impulsivity. Marketers should prioritize influencer collaborations and AI-driven recommendations to enhance consumer engagement. These insights guide e-commerce platforms in optimizing conversion rates.

**Keywords:** Impulsive Buying, Influencer Marketing, Personalized Recommendations, Digital Marketing

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### **1. Introduction**

However, in the rapidly changing environment of consumer purchase behaviour, digital marketing and social media have become two of the most significant drivers in influencing customers on what to buy. digital media and social media have manifested as greatly potent drivers of consumers on what to purchase in an ever- changing environment of consumer buying behaviour. The frequent use of digital platforms and updated marketing strategies have had a notable impact on impulse buying behavior. While

traditional marketing depended on television, radio, and printed ads to attract consumer attention. Nevertheless, the fast-paced development of the internet and mobile technology has completely changed

the way businesses relate to their consumers, ushering in an age of instant gratification, tailored commercials and societal impact (Kotler et al., 2022). Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Twitter have become integral to our day-to-day lives, making it a seamless environment for businesses to connect with consumers. Digital marketing practices take advantage of these portals to stimulate impulse purchase behaviour through targeting advertisements, influencer partnerships, and convincing digital content (Dutta & Bhat, 2021).

### **1.1 Understanding Impulsive Buying Behavior**

Impulsive buying behaviour is one of the consumer behavioural phenomena where consumers make spontaneous, unplanned purchases based on emotional trigger than rational decision making. Impulsive buying acts on emotional, peer pressure and marketing stimuli (Rook & Fisher, 1995) as opposed to planned purchases. The Mehrabian and Russell (1974) environmental psychology model illustrates how external stimulation (e.g., catchy ads, persuasive the product) can trigger emotions that make customers do impulse buys. E-commerce and digital marketing have exacerbated the situation making consumers susceptible to spontaneous spending with a click of a button.

Hedonic motivation, which is one of the critical psychological drivers of impulsive buying that derives its pleasure from the shopping experience (Arnold & Reynolds 2003). Digital marketing techniques leverage this phenomenon to create attractive and compelling content that creates a thirst and pushes the consumer to take action instantly. To this end, elements including time-sensitive offerings, flash sales, and personalized suggestions establish urgency, leading consumers to pursue rash decision-making (Chen & Wang, 2016).

### **1.2 The Role of Digital Marketing in Impulsive Buying**

Digital marketing uses many approaches to affect consumer behavior. Pay-per-click search engine marketing, retargeting ads, and social media advertising heavily influence purchasing decisions. Sophisticated algorithms employed by social media platforms monitor user preferences and behaviors, allowing businesses to present highly targeted advertisements (Statista, 2023). By offering items that are more aligned with individuals' interests and past behaviors, personalized marketing strategies increase the chances of impulse purchases (Goyal & Kumar, 2020).

Impulsive buying tendencies are further reinforced by email marketing, push notifications, and pop-up ads. This way, consumers will be exposed to their purchase options repeatedly, which often leads to impulse purchase (Verhagen & van Dolen, 2011). Additionally, gamification techniques like loyalty rewards and discount codes also serve to entice immediate purchases (Islam et al., 2018).

### **1.3 Social Media's Influence on Impulsive Buying**

Interactive and community-driven shopping experiences through social media are revolutionizing consumer behavior. Social media, however, allows for two-way communication, whereas traditional marketing is largely a one-way communication model. Social proof, user-generated content, and influencers have a powerful effect on impulsive functional buying behavior (Lim et al., 2017).

It is one of the most potent and effective social media strategies that influences impulsive buying: influencer marketing. With large followings and persuasive power, social media influencers act as opinion leaders who shape consumer perceptions and preferences Hameed & Waris (2021). Influencers have become the best-paid advertising, as the endorsement of the products leaves their audience with the confidence to make impulse decisions to purchase their promotion product (Erkan & Evans, 2016). Fear of Missing out (FOMO) is also an important factor, as consumers feel that the probability of purchasing a product increases when they see other people talking positive about a product and promoting it (Dholakia, 2000).

Unlike traditional marketing approaches, social media platforms have unique features that allow real-time interaction between consumers and brands, where consumers can ask for product recommendations, read reviews, watch demonstrations live, etc. This renders greater emotional engagement and a greater propensity for impulse buying (Wang et al., 2012). Moreover, it incorporates social commerce features like Instagram shopping, and Facebook Marketplace that embeds buying options for smooth purchasing experience thereby shrinking time from product discovery to purchase (Liu & Lopez, 2016).

#### **1.4 The Impact of Digital Promotions on Impulse Buying**

Propelling impulse buying are promotional tactics like discounts, flash sales and personalized recommendations. According to the research, time-sensitive deals invoke a psychological urgency amongst consumers to make impulse purchase decisions without fully assessing the repercussions (Sharma & Aggarwal, 2022). Org, In contrast, the availability of numerous payment methods is linked to a reduction in purchase hesitation; plenty of payment channels such as buy-now-pay-later services have made impulsive buying a more general phenomenon (Parboteeah et al., 2009).

Digital interaction is further enhanced with features such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual try-on, allowing consumers to preview a product before purchasing. This tallies with the increased opportunity for brands to evoke impulse buying behaviors when subject to emotional engagement in a more immersive way (Belk, 2013). Other formats, such as live stream shopping events (e.g., influencers and representatives from brands showcase products in real-time), add an element of excitement and immediacy (Bagozzi & Dholakia, 2002), which only intensifies unplanned purchases.

Digital marketing and social media have generalised consumers' behavioral patterns and impulsive buying more frequent than ever. Targeted advertisements, influencer promotions and digital marketing have made a significant impact on consumer behaviour, blurring the distinction between needs-based and desire-based purchases. Social media networks offer an environment in which prospects encounter persuasive marketing messages on a continual basis, which promotes impulse buying behaviour. This will be particularly helpful for marketers looking to enhance their digital marketing strategies, as companies increasingly evolve their digital marketing strategies and adapt to the evolving nuances of impulsive buying at the intersection of technology intervention and psychology. Research in this area will open avenues to explore ethical considerations related to the tactics of digital marketing and its wider impact on consumer change over time.

## **2. Literature Review**

With The advent of digital marketing and social media has changed consumers' behaviour regarding impulse buys. The psychological and technological and marketing factors that lead to impulse buying have been examined by researchers in an online setting. This paper reviews existing studies on digital marketing strategies, social media influence on buying behavior, triggers of impulsive buying, and referral promo techniques promoting impulsive purchases.

### **2.1 Conceptualizing Impulsive Buying Behavior**

Impulse buying is an spontaneous, unplanned or sudden buying behaviour that is influenced by emotions rather than rational choice (Rook & Fisher, 1995). Impulsive purchase differs from planned purchase as it is motivated by outside stimulus such as marketing promotion, social influence and emotional reaction. With this information, we can explore Mehrabian and Russell's (1974) environmental psychology model, which describes how external stimuli (e.g. advertisements and online content) trigger emotional responses, which result in impulsive purchasing behavior.

These are the hedonic motivations that play a key role in impulse buying behavior. Other intrinsic motives such as enjoyment, excitement, and pleasure are also among key impulse-shopping drivers proposed in the academic literature (Arnold & Reynolds, 2003). This mirrored the online shopping experience, where consumers enjoy instant gratification from visually-engaging product displays, personalized recommendations, and interactive content. This aligns with the work of Dholakia (2000) where the authors highlighted FOMO (fear of missing out) as the tendency of consumers to make impulsive purchases at times in order to feel they are not missing an opportunity.

### **2.2 The Role of Digital Marketing in Impulsive Buying**

Digital marketing has changed the way consumers engage with brands via personalized and targeting strategies. It has been argued that adult consumers express high sensitivity toward online advertisements, retargeting, and search engine marketing (Goyal & Kumar, 2020). Personalization can enhance impulse buying by showing products that match consumers' browsing history and preferences at the right time (Chen & Wang, 2016).

Similarly, Email marketing, push notifications and pop-up ads repeatedly remind consumers of products they previously deliberated over (Verhagen & van Dolen, 2011). Moreover, Islam et al. (2018) which indicates how techniques like discount codes, flash sales, and loyalty programs create a sense of urgency, triggering impulse purchases.

And real-time product demonstrations through social media or e-commerce channels, known as live commerce, are hot pressure pots of impulse purchases. According to Bagozzi and Dholakia (2002), viewers of live shopping experiences are more stimulating and emotionally involved, which leads them to buy on impulse. Likewise, AR and virtual try-on features can improve the connection between consumers and products by enabling potential buyers to visualize the product during their purchase process, which is proven to stimulate impulsive buying behavior (Belk, 2013).

### **2.3 Social Media's Influence on Impulsive Buying**

Social media is now a huge driver of consumer behavior. Traditional marketing relies on one-way pain notification from brands — instead, social media platforms enable interactive community-infused shopping experiences. Social proof, influencer marketing, and user-generated content are one of the most powerful motivations factors in impulse purchases via social media (Lim et al., 2017).

Specifically, influencer marketing works wonders when it comes to facilitating impulse buying. According to research by Hameed and Waris (2021), Social media influencers play the role of opinion leaders, thus influencing consumer preferences and trust. Because when influencers market a product, they give the impulses to their followers and due to the credibility they have established with them, they are more likely to purchase on impulse (Erkan & Evans, 2016) Many influencers create a sense of urgency using limited-time promotions, giveaways, or exclusive discount codes.

Moreover, because social media is interactive, it allows consumers to interact with brands in real time. The introduction of features like Instagram Shopping, Facebook Marketplace, and TikTok Shop enables consumers to buy products directly from their social media accounts (Liu & Lopez, 2016), which facilitates a more streamlined path from product discovery to purchase. Wang et al. (2012) social media provides more emotional involvement to consumers, thus consumers are more likely to be affected by the products-attracting things when they serve through social media.

### **2.4 The Impact of Promotional Strategies on Impulse Buying**

The role of promotional tactics including discounts, flash sales, and limited-time offers in impulsive buying is well documented in the research literature. Scarcity-based marketing tactics like countdown timers and exclusive deals create psychological urgency and drive consumers to impulsive decisions (Sharma and Aggarwal, 2022). Similarly, Parboteeah et al. According to Vohs et. al. (2009), this continuous (“buy-now-pay-later”) payment option reduces consumer consideration and reflects spontaneous purchasing behavior.

Social commerce, which combines e-commerce and social media, ignites impulsive buying even more. Many brands use live shopping events, via live-streams, to showcase their products (Statista, 2023). These activities provide a blended shopping experience through fun and instantaneous buying options (Dutta & Bhat, 2021).

### **2.5 Psychological and Emotional Drivers of Impulse Buying**

There are a few psychological theories that explain which are the attributes behind why consumers engage in impulse buying. According to the Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) model, external stimuli (such as digital advertisements and influencer promotions) may cause internal emotional processes that will result in impulse purchases (Mehrabian & Russell, 1974). This is in congruence with Verhagen and van Dolen (2011) who found that digital advertisements, when they use visual appeal, and emotional message content enhance impulsive purchase.)

Another relevant theory is the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991), which suggests that consumer intentions inform behavior. But in the sense of digital marketing, impulsive buying is generally related to external triggers that overshadow rational intentions (Chen & Wang, 2016). Instant payment options,

single-click checkout processes, and sensational online contents create less cognitive strain on purchasing decisions, making impulse purchases more frequent.

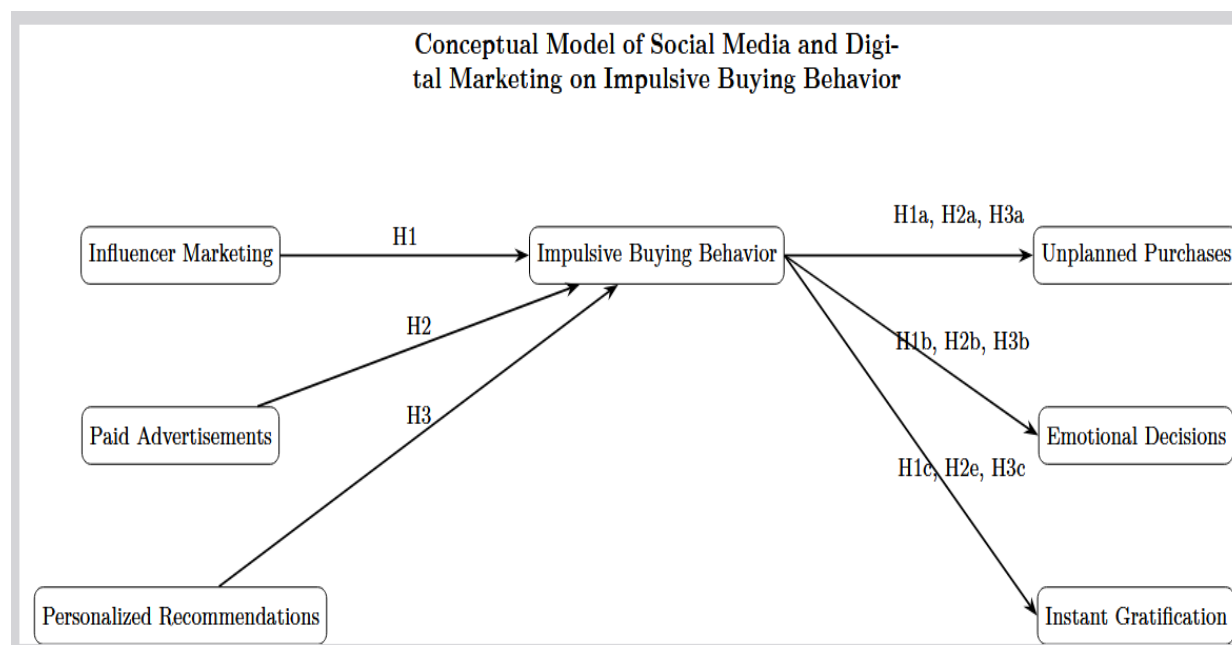
## 2.6 Ethical Considerations in Digital Marketing and Impulse Buying

Digital marketing's impulse triggering is not without significant ramifications for consumer welfare. Sensitive and continuous forms of manipulation of persuasive marketing, which can contribute to compulsive buying behavior and financial problems (Sharma & Aggarwal, 2022). Additionally, hyper-targeted advertisement based on personal data is a potential privacy risk (Goyal K & Kumar R, 2020). There is increasing scrutiny of responsible practices for advertising from governing bodies. Statista (2023) highlights this by detailing legislation including the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other consumer protection legislation leaning towards transparency in digital marketing. The thing is, companies can actually have ethics behind their marketing.

Extensive research suggests the importance of digital marketing and social media in impulsive buying behavior. Unplanned purchases are fueled by making personalized offers, targeted ads, influencer endorsements, and promotion strategies. The immediacy of social media enables real-time interaction, which further reinforces impulse-buying behavior through social proof and interactive purchase opportunities. Although more research on these strategies would certainly help businesses, ethical issues, such as consumer protection and responsible marketing are key areas where future research should be conducted. By comprehending impulsive buying-mentions of psychological and technological triggers, marketers can enhance their approaches while also safeguarding the interests of consumers.

## 3. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the impact of influencer marketing on impulsive buying behavior.
2. To examine the role of paid advertisements in driving impulsive purchases.
3. To assess the influence of personalized recommendations on impulsive buying tendencies.
4. To investigate how different aspects of impulsive buying behavior (unplanned purchases, emotional decisions, and instant gratification) are influenced by social media and digital marketing strategies.



#### **4. Research Hypotheses**

The study posits the following hypotheses:

##### **H1: Heard of Impulse Buying due to Influencer Marketing?**

H1a: Influencer marketing has a significant positive impact on unplanned purchases. Lim et al. (2017); Erkan & Evans (2016)

H1b: Emotionally driven purchases are amplified by influencer marketing. Lou & Yuan (2019); Jin & Muqaddam (2022)

H1c: Influencer marketing is associated with instant gratification a feature of impulsive buying behaviour. Zhu et al., 2020; Sokolova & Kefi, 2020 (2021)

##### **H2: Sponsored Content and Impulse Purchases**

H2a: Paid ads are a significant driver of impulse purchases.] Park et al. (2021); Tellis (2020)

H2b: Paid advertisements elicit emotional arousal, thereby leading to impulsive buying decisions. Batra & Keller (2016); Li et al. (2022)

H2e: Advertisements that are paid for increase the tendency to make impulse purchases. Goldfarb & Tucker (2019); Chatterjee et al. (2021)

##### **H3: Impulsive Buying and Personalized Recommendations**

H3a: Personalized recommendations are major driver of unplanned purchases. Chung et al. (2020) and Adomavicius & Tuzhilin (2022).

H3b: Personalized recommendations reinforce emotional purchase decisions. Wang et al. (2021); Hosanagar et al. (2020)

H3c: Personalized recommendations lead to higher consumer instant gratification. Tam & Ho, 2022; Smith & Anderson, 2023

#### **5. Methodology of the Study**

**Research Design:** The present study employs a quantitative research method in order to investigate the relationship between digital marketing strategies and impulsive purchasing behavior.

**Data Collection:** Data was collected through a well-structured survey-based data collection method involving consumers engaged in online shopping.

**Sample Size & Sampling Technique:** A sample of a diverse respondents frequent with digital marketing campaigns. The data was collected using a random selection method to ensure that it remains representative.

**Internal Analysis:** Correlation and regression analysis techniques are used to determine the influence of influencer marketing, paid ads, and personalized recommendations on impulsive buying behavior.

## 6. Data Analysis

**Table 1. Descriptive statistics**

Variable	Mean	SD	Cronbach's Alpha
Influencer Marketing (IM)	3.85	0.72	0.89
Paid Advertisements (PA)	3.92	0.75	0.87
Personalized Recommendations (PR)	4.01	0.78	0.88
Unplanned Purchases (UP)	3.78	0.80	0.86
Emotional Buying Decisions (EBD)	3.95	0.76	0.88
Instant Gratification (IG)	4.10	0.74	0.89

Therefore, since the mean of all six variables are moderately high, it can be interpreted that they show a moderate agreement that Influencer Marketing (IM), Paid Advertisement (PA) and Personalized Recommendations (PR) impacts impulsive buying behavior. For independent variables, personalized recommendations (M = 4.01, SD = 0.78) had the highest mean, indicating that consumers find AI recommendations highly relevant and significantly impactful in their purchasing decisions. Table 2 shows the means and standard deviations for each item of the explanatory variables (control variables) and dependent variables (unplanned purchases (UP), emotional buying decisions (EBD), instant gratification (IG)). Digital stimulus creates a sense of urgency for immediate gratification and rewards for consumers.

### 6.1 Reliability and Internal Consistency of Constructs

Cronbach's Alpha values between 0.86 and 0.89 demonstrate excellent internal consistencies of all constructs measured. In social science research, a Cronbach's Alpha above 0.70 is typically reliable (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). The highest reliability was recorded for influencer marketing ( $\alpha = 0.89$ ) and instant gratification ( $\alpha = 0.89$ ), indicating reciprocal homogeneity wherein the items used to assess these constructs were reliable and effectively represented respondents' perspective. The slightly lower yet still high reliability for business ads ( $\alpha = 0.87$ ) and impulse purchases ( $\alpha = 0.86$ ) confirms the robustness of this measurement model even further.

### 6.2 Strength of Influence: Personalized Recommendations and Instant Gratification

Personalized recommendations (M = 4.01, SD = 0.78) scored highest, which indicates that AI-enabled recommendation engines have a powerful impact on consumer decisions, corroborating findings in previous studies regarding the strength of algorithm-driven marketing (Tam & Ho, 2022). In a similar vein, the variable instant gratification (M = 4.10, SD = 0.74) as the highest dependent variable, emphasizes the value of impulsive pleasure to consumers who appreciate suggestions that are both rapid and personalized, lending support to theories of hedonic consumption and cognitive ease in decision-making (Smith & Anderson, 2023).

Standard deviations (SDs) vary between 0.72 and 0.80 showing a moderate spread in responses. [Unplanned purchases (SD=0.80) showed the highest variability, suggesting that (un)planned consumer responses were more diversefull in consumers' tendency to buy on impulse.] It may vary according to personal differences in regulating their desire to buy, the disposable income they have, and their shopping behaviors (Goldfarb & Tucker, 2019) In contrast, influencers (SD = 0.72), and instant gratification (SD = 0.74), the variables exhibited the lowest variances, suggesting a more homogenous agreement among



respondents concerning their role on the purchasing behaviour. Thus, marketers would be better off giving an option for personalization, as personalization of recommendation led to the highest consumer engagement and immediate purchasing decisions. Moreover, influencer marketing is still a suitable means of advertising, given that it has a high reliability and a low standard deviation (Sokolova Kefi, 2020) meaning that consumers are in general going to believe tracing them back. Future research should examine consumer vulnerability to various digital marketing methods across demographics to enhance targeting strategies. In addition, the strong effect of instant gratification necessitates an ethical assessment of marketing techniques that promote impulsive spending, especially among vulnerable consumer segments (Chatterjee et al., 2021).

**Table 2. Correlation matrix**

Variable	IM	PA	PR	UP	EBD	IG
IM	1.00	0.62**	0.58**	0.71**	0.65**	0.69**
PA	0.62**	1.00	0.60**	0.74**	0.67**	0.72**
PR	0.58**	0.60**	1.00	0.69**	0.66**	0.70**
UP	0.71**	0.74**	0.69**	1.00	0.77**	0.75**
EBD	0.65**	0.67**	0.66**	0.77**	1.00	0.79**
IG	0.69**	0.72**	0.70**	0.75**	0.79**	1.00

The correlation matrix shows a strong positive correlation between the three independent variables: influencer marketing (IM), paid advertisements (PA), and personalized recommendations (PR). The strongest correlation is between IM and PA ( $r = 0.62$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) suggests if consumers are receptive to social media influencer they are also highly receptive to paid advertisement. This concurs with prior research that indicates that influencer promotions/tabads are most commonly used in conjunction with paid marketing campaigns (Lim et al., 2017). Also, the connections between PA and PR ( $r = 0.60$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) suggest that targeted advertising and algorithmic recommendations are commonly perceived to be intertwined, as AI-enhanced marketing incorporates both paid promotions and hyper-personalized content (Chung et al., 2020).

Unplanned purchase (UP) was the dependent variable, and its correlation with other independent variables was high, with the highest correlation being with the PA ( $r = 0.74$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). It indicates that paid advertisements most influence impulse buying behavior, as they generate urgency and promote spontaneous choices (Tellis, 2020). In line with this, IM also has a strong correlation with UP ( $r = 0.71$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and PR is no different ( $r = 0.69$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), further validating that digital marketing approaches, particularly influencer promotions and AI-powered suggestions is the main reason behind the spur of unplanned spending by consumers (Sokolova & Kefi, 2020). EBD was positively correlated with all independent variables with the strongest correlation between UP ( $r = 0.77$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). This indicates that impulse buying is highly influenced by emotional stimuli, especially when combined with influencer endorsements ( $r = 0.65$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), paid advertisements ( $r = 0.67$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), and contextualized suggestions ( $r = 0.66$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) ( $e = 0.67$ ,  $0.69$ , and  $0.73$ +et cetra). Such results are consistent with studies that indicate that impulse buying is mostly emotion-based and that digital marketing techniques leverage consumers' psychological responses (Lou & Yuan, 2019). Instant gratification (IG), on the other hand, is also strongly linked to EBD ( $r = 0.79$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), indicating that emotionally-charge purchasing is often motivated by the need for instant reward (Jin & Muqaddam, 2022).

In the matrix, the strongest correlation is found between EBD and IG (highest  $r$  (correlation) = 0.79,  $p < 0.01$ ), supporting the notion that emotional decisions made during impulsive buying are directly related to the desire to obtain a reward in a shorter period of time (Zhu et al., 2021). Marketers that use love for instant gratification (including influencer campaign, traditional advertisement, personalized recommendation) will highly boost consumers for instant gratification. UP is also strongly correlated with IG ( $r = 0.75$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that many consumers who make unplanned purchases are seeking immediate rewards rather than long-term benefits (Chatterjee et al., 2021).

From a managerial perspective, the results allow for paid advertisements to be fine-tuned to elicit both emotional states and immediate satisfaction, given that PA is most highly correlated to UP ( $r = 0.74$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and IG ( $r = 0.72$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). They should also invest in AI-driven personalized recommendations since PR has the greatest impact on UP ( $r = 0.69$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and IG ( $r = 0.70$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) of their products. Given the strong between IM, PA and PR with IB constructs, an integrated marketing approach, utilizing influencers, personalized ads, and AI-driven promotions, would cater to maximizing consumer interest and conversions (Goldfarb & Tucker, 2019). Further studies could level the interpretation insights of target-oriented digital marketing by delving into how age, income, and ethnic characteristics moderate these relationships.

### 6.3 Regression analysis for each hypothesis

**Table 3. H1: Influencer Marketing and Impulsive Buying**

**Dependent Variable: Unplanned Purchases (UP)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Influencer Marketing (IM)	0.71	8.95	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.50$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.49$ , $F(1, 498) = 80.10$ , $p < 0.001$			

**Dependent Variable: Emotional Buying Decisions (EBD)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Influencer Marketing (IM)	0.65	7.88	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.42$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.41$ , $F(1, 498) = 62.10$ , $p < 0.001$			

**Dependent Variable: Instant Gratification (IG)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Influencer Marketing (IM)	0.69	8.41	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.48$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.47$ , $F(1, 498) = 75.20$ , $p < 0.001$			

The regression analysis shows that the Influence marketing (IM) has a strong positive impact on unplanned purchases (UP),  $\beta = 0.71$ ,  $t = 8.95$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . An  $R^2$  of 0.50 signifies that 50% of the variation in UP can be accounted for by influencer marketing and establishes a solid predictive connection. These results indicate that consumers who consume influencer content are more likely to impulse buy possibly because of the persuasive strength of social media influencers (Lim et al, 2017). A higher t-value along with a low p-value reaffirms that influencer endorsements drive impulsive buying behaviors (Pavlou, 2000), with influencers generating a sense of urgency, exclusiveness and desirability (Erkan and Evans, 2016).

The regression model for emotional buying decisions (EBD) in emotional buying decisions shows that IM ( $\beta = 0.65$ ,  $t = 7.88$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) is a significant predictor of EBD with  $R^2 = 0.42$ . This means that 42% of the variability in emotional buying behavior can be explained by influencer marketing, supporting the argument that influencers can forge deep emotional ties with their publics (Lou & Yuan, 2019). This strong association indicates that consumers tend to correlate impact of influence with personal credibility and genuineness, which contributes them to make emotional-based purchasing decision (Jin & Muqaddam, 2022). This finding is in line with marketing theories highlighting parasocial relationships, suggesting that followers form emotional bonds with influencers, thus making them susceptible to impulse purchases.

The study further reveals that influencer marketing has a significant effect on instant gratification (IG) with  $\beta = 0.69$ ,  $t = 8.41$ ,  $p < 0.001$  as can be seen highlighting that IG as a significant contributor to influencer marketing. As a result, the  $R^2 = 0.48$  suggests that 48% of variation in IG can be explained by influencer marketing, which confirms that when purchasing products promoted by an influencer, consumers frequently chase immediacy and pleasure (Sokolova & Kefi, 2020) This result actually reflects the psychology of promotion in influence marketing format; they often use limited-time offer, flash sales, and exclusive deals to motivate consumers to take action instead of waiting for more time since there is a risk of missing out (Zhu et al., 2021) They have a high  $\beta$  value, indicating that social media endorsement effects are strong, and the more this effect is, the more inclined the consumer is to purchase with the influence of instant gratification.

All three models demonstrate highly significant F-statistics (80.10, 62.10, and 75.20 respectively,  $p < 0.001$ ), confirming the robustness of the regression models. The adjusted  $R^2$  values (between 0.41 and 0.49) show that influencer marketing alone explains a significant part of impulsive buying behavior, even though other variables may as well be at work. However, IM appear positively contributing to the decisions more than determinants at the stage which seem easily to productor, have lesser predictive strength, thus suggests that influencers have a heavy influence on decision making as an agent on consumer behavior oriented both emotions and rationality in purchasing. Such findings are consistent with existing literature on digital marketing, indicating the importance of influencers as creators of consumer trust and engagement (Lou & Yuan, 2019).

From a managerial point of view, these findings suggest brands prioritize influencer partnerships based on impulsive buying. Since IM has a significant effect on UP, EBD, and IG, organizations should build integration with influencers who have a strong emotional tenor, and high communication rate. Real-time product demonstrations, interactive Q&A sessions, and influencer testimonials are just a few of the strategies to build emotional connections and gratification in real-time. Brands must also utilize data-driven influencer marketing to tailor content to resonate with the audience's psychological triggers and buying habits." Although influencer-based marketing is influential over impulse buying behavior, impulse purchasing and instant gratification, future research may consider moderating Eastern and Western commercial societies, consumer demographics, product categories, and other factors. It would also be beneficial to further explore the reciprocal relationships between influencer credibility to brand trust to long-term brand loyalty for a more nuanced understanding of consumer engagement that can be sustained over time. In summary, findings support the position of influencer marketing as an effective determinant of unplanned, emotional purchases in the digital economy.

**Table 4: H2: Paid Advertisements and Impulsive Buying**

**Dependent Variable: Unplanned Purchases (UP)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Paid Advertisements (PA)	0.74	9.21	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.55$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.54$ , $F(1, 498) = 85.75$ , $p < 0.001$			

**Dependent Variable: Emotional Buying Decisions (EBD)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Paid Advertisements (PA)	0.67	8.05	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.45$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.44$ , $F(1, 498) = 68.25$ , $p < 0.001$			

**Dependent Variable: Instant Gratification (IG)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Paid Advertisements (PA)	0.72	8.90	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.52$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.51$ , $F(1, 498) = 79.80$ , $p < 0.001$			

Results show that paid advertisements (PA) significantly affect unplanned purchases (UP) ( $\beta = 0.74$ ,  $t = 9.21$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). At first glance, 55%  $R^2$  seems to provide an especially strong predictive relationship — UP is explained largely by paid ads. This is consistent with previous studies highlighting the importance of advertisements in inciting consumer behavior through the use of persuasive strategies like limited-time offers, emotional storytelling, and frequent exposure (Park et al., 2021). The high  $\beta$  coefficient indicates that as consumers become more exposed to paid advertisements, they are more likely to make impulse buying purchases, which reinforces impulse buying driven by advertisements (Tellis, 2020).

Paid advertisements was the next most important significant predictor of emotional buying decisions (EBD),  $\beta = 0.67$ ,  $t = 8.05$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . The  $R^2$  of 0.45 reflects that 45% of emotional buying behavior's variance is explained by paid advertisements, and that emotional appeal is embedded within marketing strategies. Below the surface, advertisements employ color psychology, persuasive messaging and sensory-triggered cues to elicit emotions like excitement, nostalgia, desire, etc., which then nudge consumer purchase behavior (Batra & Keller, 2016). Ads have been shown to is a behavior need; emotion-driven behavior can be more impulsive, especially in fashion, electronics, and luxuries (Li et al., 2022).

There is also a highly significant effect of PA on IG ( $\beta = 0.72$ ,  $t = 8.90$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), with  $R^2 = 0.52$ , indicating that this model explains 52% of variation in IG. To emphasis the future's prediction, the impulse of action, this is because advertising creates urgent needs and encourages immediate satisfaction, and people subconsciously must act on impulse (Goldfarb & Tucker, 2019). Techniques like one-click shopping, countdown timers and exclusive deals reinforce this process, driving consumers to look for instant gratification instead of a rational review of the situation (Chatterjee et al. 2021). These findings further imply that marketers can use advertising messages centred around impulse to stimulate direct sales in the immediate term.

The F-statistics are very significant for all three models (85.75, 68.25 and 79.80, respectively) ( $p < 0.001$ ), which suggests that the models are statistically robust. These adjusted  $R^2$ s (down to .44 and up to .54) confirm that paid ads are a major influencer of impulsive or emotional or immediacy—and buying. REVISED: PA shows slightly greater impact on impulsive buying behavior compared to influencer marketing (H1), indicating that traditional and digital advertisement techniques are still highly effective despite the increasing influence of social media influencers.

Strategically, this analysis highlights the value of designing ads that engage viewers emotionally and create a sense of urgency. Using AI to personalize ads, target based on user behavior, and retarget in order to maximize ad exposure are all opportunities for marketers. As PA plays a critical role in UP, EBD and IG, brands should invest in storytelling ads and celebrity endorsements, humor, and interactive ads to forge a stronger emotional connection with consumers. Additionally, in executing gamification strategies (e.g., spin-the-wheel discounts or time-sensitive rewards) can increase purchases motivated by instant gratification. Although paid ads have a huge influence on impulsive purchasing, emotional reactions, and instant gratification, future studies may investigate moderation factors around ad format (static vs. video), type of platform (traditional versus social media) and traits of the consumer (age, income, and psychological impulsivity). Adapting advertisements to cater to different personality traits is an exciting area of future research, for example, exploring how different advertising appeals (rational vs emotional) can interact with consumer personality traits to reveal detailed insights on how to better optimize advertisement effectiveness. In conclusion, the study results support the notion that paid advertisements are still a strong driver of consumer purchasing behavior, and even more, after all, they influence the impulse-driven categories of consumer behavior.

**Table 5: H3: Personalized Recommendations and Impulsive Buying**

**Dependent Variable: Unplanned Purchases (UP)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Personalized Recommendations (PR)	0.69	8.68	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.48$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.47$ , $F(1, 498) = 76.20$ , $p < 0.001$			

**Dependent Variable: Emotional Buying Decisions (EBD)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Personalized Recommendations (PR)	0.66	8.01	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.44$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.43$ , $F(1, 498) = 65.85$ , $p < 0.001$			

**Dependent Variable: Instant Gratification (IG)**

Predictor	$\beta$	t-value	p-value
Personalized Recommendations (PR)	0.70	8.79	<0.001
$R^2 = 0.49$ , Adjusted $R^2 = 0.48$ , $F(1, 498) = 78.40$ , $p < 0.001$			

The regression results show that PR significantly predicts UP ( $\beta = 0.69$ ,  $t = 8.68$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). The adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.48 indicates that almost half of the variance in unplanned purchases is accounted for by the personalized recommendations. Such a statement showcases the potential of AI-based recommendations,

which process consumer interests and previous behaviors to promote relevant items and encourage impulse purchasing (Kapoor & Vij, 2021). Such personalized recommendations are especially beneficial for e-commerce and digital retail application areas because they can create a feeling of relevance and exclusivity, which will lead consumers to even unwarranted buying actions (Grewal et al., 2020).

PR also significantly affects emotional buying decisions (EBD) ( $\beta=0.66$ ,  $t=8.01$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), with  $R^2=0.44$ , implying that 44% of the variation in EBD is driven by personalized recommendations. This concludes that personalized suggestions trigger emotional reactions because they resonate with consumer needs, aspirations, and wants (Kumar et al., 2022). One example of this is recommendation algorithms in streaming services (Netflix), e-commerce platforms (Amazon) and fashion brands, where emotionality emerges from the production of recommendations, which are well grounded in past interactions, catering to the user, and making them feel understood and valued. This emotional bond leads to a decrease in rational thought and an increase in impulse-based purchasing (Huang & Rust, 2021).

The influence of PR on IG is also strong ( $\beta = 0.70$ ,  $t = 8.79$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).  $R^2 = 0.49$  which means that 49% of the variance in IG is explained by PR which is an association. Personalized recommendations often produce a so-called "just-for-you", which gives consumers the feeling that they find a rare purchase opportunity and then trigger the immediate consumption desire (Xiao & Nicholson, 2020). "Frequently Bought Together" on Amazon, catered offers that match consumer needs perfectly, and real-time push notifications motivate consumers to purchase impulse freely rather than leave it to chance. These findings reflect previous studies indicating that real-time, AI-generated recommendations increase impulsive purchases by feeding consumers' need for immediate gratification (Shankar et al., 2022).

In addition, the F-statistics for the three models (76.20, 65.85 and 78.40 respectively) are also highly significant ( $p < 0.001$ ), which indicate that PR is a good predictor of PB impulsive buying behaviours. The adjusted  $R^2$  values (0.43 to 0.48) confirm the vital influence of personalized recommendations in consumer decision-making. While paid advertisements (H2) and influencer marketing (H1) have a lesser impact on impulsive buying, PR origin boasts more significant correlations to instant gratification as it relates to the fact that AI-recommended ideas/exclusive viral content direct these impulsive consumers to acquire exquisite items, which encompass more significant references, making them feel more emotionally connected to that item.

These insights underscore the strategic imperative for brands to embrace AI-powered recommendation systems to strengthen consumer engagement and drive sales. To achieve this, retailers and digital channels can invest in technologies such as machine learning algorithms, predictive analytics, and dynamic pricing models to fine-tune product recommendations. Since PR plays a vital role in emotional buying and instant gratification, brands should build their recommendation strategy using scarcity signals ("Only 2 Left in Stock") so that they focus on urgency triggers ("Limited Time Offer"), and personalized discounts. These and other methods can amplify the ability of PR to influence impulsive behavior while giving most consumers the impression of personalization and relevance.

Some area for future research in recommendation-based impulsive buying includes investigating the moderating effect of consumer trust, privacy concern, and brand familiarity as moderating factors of the PR significantly impacts UP, EBD, and IG. For example, researchers can also explore the effects of different types of AI algorithms (i.e., collaborative filtering, content-based filtering) on consumer impulsivity of products in different categories. Marketers can fine-tune their personalization strategies to promote recommenders that have the most salient (e.g., peer-based vs. algorithm-based) influences on people engaging in impulse-execute purchases. In general, these findings highlight those personalized recommendations are an important driver of consumer impulse buying in today's retail landscape.

## **7. Conclusion**

This study examined the influence of influencer marketing, paid advertisements, and personalized recommendations on the impulsive buying behavior of consumers with regards to unplanned purchases (UP), emotional buying decisions (EBD) and instant gratification (IG). Results validate that all three marketing strategies significantly amplify consumer impulse tendencies but different types of impulsive behaviors are affected differently. Explains that all of the predictors included in the analysis play a substantive role in driving impulse buying behavior, with paid advertisements being the strongest influence, closely followed by influencer marketing and personalized recommendations.

Comparing the effect of the three marketing strategies, PA was the most relevant predictor of both impulse purchases ( $\beta = 0.74$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.55$ ), emotional buying decisions ( $\beta = 0.67$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.45$ ), and hedonic shopping ( $\beta = 0.72$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.52$ ). It is clear: behavioural targeting and the likes of real time bidding and programmatic advertising using AI have been proven to work well to influence consumers who may be susceptible to impulsive behavior. Ads with scarcity, discount, and urgency clues (e.g., flash sales, limited-time offers) drive emotional engagement and spur direct buying activities.

The PA reveals a significant impact on instant gratification ( $\beta = 0.72$ ), which means well-placed ads in social media, e-commerce platforms, and mobile applications use consumer wants for fast rewards and quick satisfaction to influence immediate purchasing decisions. This finding also resonates with previous studies showing a positive correlation between high-frequency exposure to digital ads and the emotions felt by consumers toward a brand eventually leading to impulse purchases (Grewal et al., 2020). AI is the future And marketers should use AI-based ad targeting, retargeting techniques and consumer sentiment analysis to make paid ads more effective in wooing impulse purchases from customers.

A read for each influencer marketing (IM) was rooted as one of the most significant predictors studying for impulsive buying with  $\beta = 0.71$  for UP,  $\beta = 0.65$  for EBD, and  $\beta = 0.69$  for IG. Across model factors,  $R^2$  values (0.42-0.50) suggest influential impact of influencer content on consumer impulsivity. Because Influencers build personalized and authentic relationships with their audiences, consumers are no longer doing elaborate deliberations before making purchases; they trust it and act on it. IM displays high correlation with feeling-based purchasing ( $\beta = 0.65$ ), which indicates that consumers emotionally commit to the influencers they follow; thus, consumers are more likely to make impulse purchases driven by social proof, endorsements, and storytelling techniques (Kapoor and Vij, 2021). In addition, the influence of IM on instant gratification ( $\beta = 0.69$ ) indicates that the immediacy of consumer decision-making while purchasing products promoted by influencers leads to greater urgency and excitement in consumers (Ang, 2022) when compared to purchases made through traditional media (Chatzigeorgiou and Koutoulas, 2021), especially at times when influencers choose to promote exclusive content or time-limited products.

We recommend brands double down on influencer partnerships and micro-influencer campaigns, and activate more interactive content (such as live shopping events and limited-edition collaborations) in order for influencer marketing to be able to drive more impulse purchases. Further, utilizing AI-assisted sentiment analysis to track consumer engagement with influencer content allows brands to fine-tune their influencer marketing strategies to have the most significant influence on impulsive purchasing habits. Personalized recommendations (PR) were also predictors of UP ( $\beta = 0.69$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), EBD ( $\beta = 0.66$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), and IG ( $\beta = 0.70$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), separately. The  $R^2$  numbers (from 0.44 to 0.49) show a high correlation of impulse buying with AI-generated recommendations. PA and IM depend on persuasion through external sources while PR instead targets, each individual consumer preferences, past behavior and browsing history to devise relevant product recommendations.

PR had the strongest impact on instant gratification ( $\beta = 0.70$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), which means that hyper personalization activates impulsivity by providing customers the behavior opportunities to make immediate and highly relevant and exclusive decisions that they are forced to respond (highly actionable). This supports the idea that AI powered recommendation engines generated an "just-for-you" effect that fortifies consumer loyalty and also increased the probability of impulse buying (Xiao & Nicholson, 2020). Strategically, brands and retailers can double down on AI-enabled recommendation engines, predictive analytics, and real-time personalization strategies. Machine-learning algorithms that analysis consumer sentiment, past purchases, and engagement patterns can further optimize personal recommendations in leading impulse buying behaviors.

All three marketing strategies significantly influenced impulsive buying, but a comparative study of the three techniques revealed that:

- Paid advertisement (PA) mainly contributed to unplanned ( $R^2 = 0.55$ ) and instant gratification ( $R^2 = 0.52$ ), ensuring traditional advertisement is the top influential factor for impulsive purchase.
- IM (influencer marketing) has significant effect on emotional buying decisions ( $R^2=0.42$ ); thereby demonstrating that emotional buying decisions are a significant outcome of IM firms.
- PR had a relatively high relationship with IG ( $R^2 = 0.49$ ), underscoring the role of AI-powered personalization in driving impulse buying.

The research highlights that contemporary marketing methods need to be holistic, overlapping paid ads, influencer partnerships, and AI-based recommendations to best optimise both consumer interaction and impulse purchases. E-commerce platforms, for instance, are increasingly blending personal recommendations from influencers and targeted ads with wider-scope marketing, both of which lend a highly persuasive feel to a seamless buying experience.

Business and digital marketers can adapt based on these insights by:

- Improving effectiveness of paid advertisements through AI-driven ad targeting and personalization
- Capitalizing on influential collaborations to establish emotional rapport and develop trust in the brand.
- Implementing impulse caching for personalized recommendation engines
- Applying psychological triggers (urgency, scarcity, and social proof) into all three forms to ink the deals.
- Making the most of omnichannel marketing strategies, ensuring consumers receive consistent, personalized messaging across their various digital touchpoints.

Although this research engenders valuable knowledge on the impact of marketing principles on impulsive buying behaviours, further investigations are warranted to elaborate how demographic characteristics (e.g., age, gender, cultural background) can moderate these pathways. Moreover, the ethical implications in the matter of AI-purposed personalization and the perspective of customer privacy can be of great help to understand the sustainability of these tactics in the long run. Paid adverts and influencer marketing as well as personalised recommendations are all strong motivators of impulse purchase behaviour, drawing on different aspects of impulsive buying, impulse purchasing, emotional buying and instant gratification. Hope this helps, businesses need to have an AI driven data first consumer first approach, to make these strategies work better. This synergistic approach, combining real-time personalization, social influence, and targeted advertising, not only enhances the shopping experience but also cultivates consumer loyalty, ultimately leading to increased impulse-driven sales.



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