

# The Role of Social Media in Building Loyalty among Telecommunication Customers

#### **Maxim Mnyakin**

Department of International Cooperation, Saint Petersburg State University, Russia https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3052-3112

### **Abstract**

Advancement Social media is a significant part of many people's lives, providing a platform for communication, connection, and the sharing of information and content. Social media has become an important tool for telecommunication companies to provide customer support and address customer complaints. Customer loyalty is important in the telecommunication industry as it can lead to increased revenue and reduced marketing costs. Telecommunication companies can work to build and maintain customer loyalty by providing high-quality products and services, excellent customer service and support, and using loyalty programs and incentives. Social media can play a role in building customer loyalty by facilitating communication and interaction with customers, providing personalized marketing and support, and building strong relationships. Many telecommunication companies have dedicated social media accounts or pages for customer support, where customers can ask questions, report problems, or seek help with issues they are experiencing. This research attempted to show how unsupervised learning can be applied to cluster telecommunication customers into different groups based on loyalty so that telecommunication companies can focus on each group with distinct loyalty-boosting strategies. However, telecommunication companies need to be cautious and careful in their use of social media to ensure that it does not have negative consequences on customer loyalty. In addition to social media interactions, it is important for telecommunication companies to consider the overall customer experience in building and maintaining customer loyalty. This includes the quality of products and services, the level of customer service and support, and the value that customers perceive they are receiving.

Keywords: Customer service, Telecommunication, Loyalty, Machine learning, Personalized training

### Introduction

Customer loyalty is crucial in the telecommunication industry since it can lead to increased income through recurring business and lower marketing expenses owing to word-of-mouth referrals [1], [2]. Furthermore, client loyalty can aid in the development of a company's brand reputation and consumer trust, both of which can be important assets. Telecommunication firms can work in a variety of ways to develop and maintain consumer loyalty. One significant strategy is to offer high-quality products and services that fulfill the needs and expectations of your customers [3], [4]. This could entail providing a diverse choice of products and services while also ensuring that these products and services are dependable, convenient, and simple to use.

Providing good customer service and assistance is another important component in developing client loyalty. This involves promptly and helpfully responding to customer enquiries and complaints, as well as anticipating and addressing customer wants and concerns. Telecommunication firms can also utilize social media and other digital channels to give customer service and create relationships with customers.



Telecommunication firms can utilize loyalty programs and incentives to persuade customers to continue using their products and services in addition to delivering high-quality products and excellent customer service [5], [6]. Rewards schemes, unique discounts, and exclusive deals and experiences are examples. Overall, creating and retaining client loyalty is critical to the success of telecommunication companies. Telecommunication firms can drive corporate growth by focusing on the quality of their products and services, delivering exceptional customer service, and utilizing loyalty programs and incentives [7], [8].

Telecommunication customer loyalty refers to a customer's proclivity to continue using a certain telecommunication company's products or services over a prolonged period of time rather than switching to a competitor. A multitude of factors can influence client loyalty, including the quality of products or services, the level of customer service and support, and the total value the consumer feels they are receiving [9]–[11]. Customer loyalty is crucial for businesses in the telecommunication industry since it can lead to increased income through recurring business and lower marketing expenses owing to word-of-mouth referrals.

### Social media in building loyalty

Social media is an important part of many people's life since it allows for communication, connection, and the exchange of information and material. For many people, social media is an integral part of their daily lives, allowing them to stay in touch with friends, family, and the larger community [12], [13]. In recent years, social media has grown in importance in the telecommunication business. Telecommunication firms utilize social media to engage with customers, promote their products and services, and give customer support and assistance.

Telecommunication firms can use social media to reach a broad audience in a cost-effective manner while also engaging with clients in a more personal and interactive manner. Social media allows telecommunication firms to respond to client enquiries and complaints quickly and easily, which can boost customer happiness and loyalty [14], [15]. Telecommunication firms can utilize social media to get real-time client feedback and evaluations, allowing them to enhance their products and services and make more educated business decisions. Telecommunication companies can use social media to stay up to date on industry trends and respond rapidly to new developments and innovations. Overall, social media has become a significant aspect of the telecommunication industry, especially for businesses seeking to establish and keep client loyalty.

For telecommunication firms, social networking has become an important tool for providing customer service and addressing customer grievances. Many telecommunication firms provide customer care social media profiles or sites where users may ask inquiries, report difficulties, or seek assistance with problems they are having.

Using social media for customer service has various advantages for both customers and telecommunication firms [16], [17]. Customers can send a message or post on the company's social media page at any time, making it a convenient and easy way to receive help. Telecommunication firms can use social media to rapidly and easily reply to client enquiries and concerns, typically resolving difficulties within hours. Customers appreciate fast and helpful service, which can boost customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Additionally, telecommunication companies can use social media to address client complaints and bad feedback in a proactive manner. Companies may demonstrate that they care about their consumers and are prepared to take action to rectify concerns by openly responding to and addressing these complaints on social media. This can aid in the restoration of trust and the enhancement of client loyalty.



Telecommunication firms can use social media for tailored marketing and connection building. Facebook and Instagram, for example, provide a plethora of data about users that can be leveraged to target marketing efforts and build tailored marketing campaigns. A telecommunications business, for example, can use client data such as age, geography, and interests to produce adverts and offers that are personalized to the consumer's individual requirements and preferences [18]–[20].

Telecommunication firms can utilize social media to create connections with clients in addition to personalized marketing by routinely engaging with them and responding to their comments and messages. Thanking clients for their business, soliciting comments, and giving relevant and useful content are all examples of this. Telecommunication firms can boost customer loyalty and retention by establishing interactions with customers via social media.

In the telecommunication business, negative internet evaluations and social media posts can have a substantial impact on client loyalty. Customers frequently rely on internet reviews and ratings when making purchasing decisions, and poor reviews can deter them from using a company's products or services. Furthermore, social media posts highlighting poor experiences or issues with a telecommunications business can spread swiftly and harm the company's brand [21], [22].

Telecommunication firms may find it difficult to maintain consumer loyalty in the face of continually changing social media algorithms and platforms. Social media platforms, like as Facebook and Instagram, often adjust their algorithms, affecting the visibility of a company's posts as well as its ability to reach and engage with customers. Furthermore, new social media platforms and trends may emerge, causing customers' attention and behavior to fluctuate.

Monitoring and responding to consumer comments on social media on a regular basis is critical for telecommunication companies trying to create and sustain customer loyalty. Customers who believe their feedback is being heard and addressed are more likely to be satisfied with and continue to use a company's products and services. Telecommunication firms can use social media to increase openness and trust with their customers. Telecommunication companies can demonstrate their dedication to transparency and keep customers informed about their products and services by constantly sharing updates, information, and material on social media.

Telecommunication firms can also utilize social media to respond to client problems and complaints in a timely and transparent manner. Companies can demonstrate their willingness to be accountable and transparent in their relationships with customers by publicly reacting to and addressing customer problems on social media. This can help to increase trust and consumer loyalty. Overall, adopting social media in a transparent and responsive manner can assist telecommunication companies in strengthening client interactions and increasing customer loyalty.

To reward and keep loyal customers, telecommunication businesses can use social media to develop exclusive offers and experiences. A telecommunications business, for example, may provide special discounts or incentives to customers who follow their social media profiles or interact with their content. These deals and experiences can be marketed on social media, giving customers an incentive to follow and connect with the brand on social media.

Telecommunication firms can utilize social media to create exclusive events or experiences for loyal customers, in addition to offering discounts and promotions. For example, a corporation may provide its most loyal customers with a VIP event or exclusive access to new products or services. Telecommunication firms may reward loyal consumers and encourage them to continue using their products and services by delivering these exclusive offers and experiences.

Through its ability to simplify contact and interaction with customers, provide targeted marketing and support, and develop strong relationships, social media has the potential to increase customer loyalty in the telecommunication business. Telecommunication firms, on the other hand, must be



cautious and cautious in their use of social media to ensure that it does not have a detrimental impact on client loyalty.

One potential issue is that unfavorable reviews and complaints might be amplified on social media. Detrimental feedback on social media can spread quickly and have a negative influence on the firm's brand and customer loyalty if a telecommunication provider does not adequately address and resolve consumer issues. Furthermore, telecommunication businesses must exercise caution not to overuse or misuse social media, since this might result in client fatigue or dissatisfaction. Overall, while social media may be a strong tool for increasing customer loyalty in the telecommunication business, organizations must utilize it cautiously and strategically to maximize its benefits and avoid any bad impacts.

Customer loyalty is crucial in the telecommunication industry because it can result in increased income from recurring business and lower marketing expenses via word-of-mouth recommendations. Furthermore, client loyalty can aid in the development of brand reputation and consumer trust, both of which can be important assets for a firm. However, various factors can influence client loyalty in the telecommunication business.

The quality of a telecommunication company's products and services is a significant consideration. Customers who are satisfied with the products and services they receive are more likely to remain loyal to a company. This includes making certain that products and services are dependable, convenient, and simple to use, as well as providing a diverse choice of products and services to fulfill the demands of various clients.

Another aspect that can influence client loyalty is a telecommunication company's degree of customer service and assistance via social media. Customers value prompt and helpful responses to their questions and complaints, and businesses that provide exceptional customer service are more likely to keep loyal customers. Telecommunication firms can utilize social media and other digital channels to provide customer service and create client relationships.

In the telecommunication sector, pricing is another aspect that might influence client loyalty. Customers will be more loyal to a company if they believe they are getting good value for their money. This involves charging reasonable charges and giving clear and transparent billing and pricing information. Finally, social media loyalty programs and incentives can have an impact on consumer loyalty in the telecommunication business. Companies that provide rewards programs, special discounts, and unique offers and experiences can entice customers to keep using their products and services.

In the telecommunication business, various factors might influence client loyalty. Telecommunication firms can establish and retain client loyalty by focusing on the quality of their products and services, delivering excellent customer service, offering competitive pricing, and utilizing loyalty programs and rewards.

#### Results and discussion

Figure 1. Loyalty program and customer service through social media



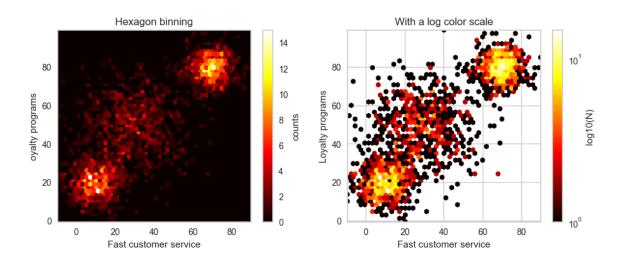


Figure 2. Loyalty program and customer service through social media and clustering

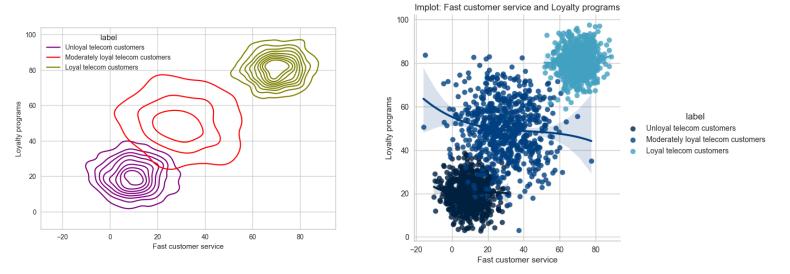


Figure 3. Other factors and customer loyalty



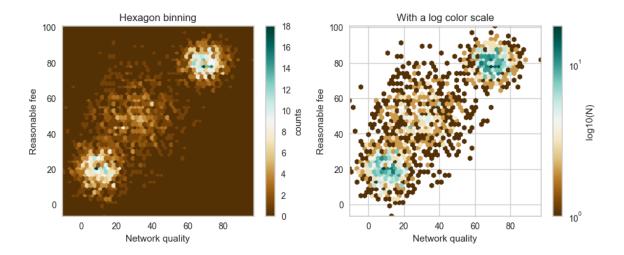
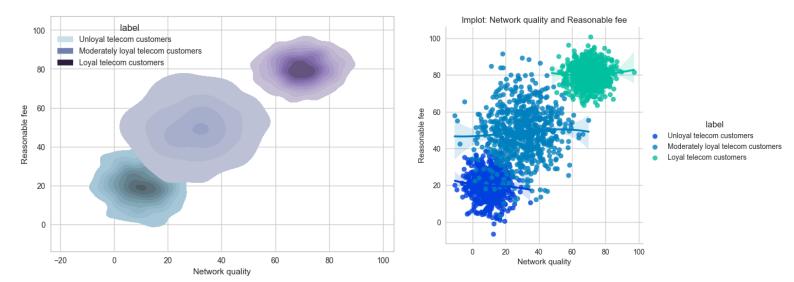


Figure 4. Figure 3. Other factors and customer loyalty clusters



To mitigate the impact of negative online reviews and social media posts, telecommunication companies should have a strategy in place to address and resolve customer complaints and issues. This can include responding to negative reviews and social media posts in a timely and constructive manner, and taking steps to resolve the underlying issues that led to the negative feedback. By showing that they are willing to listen to and address customer concerns, telecommunication companies can minimize the impact of negative reviews and social media posts on customer loyalty.

To address these challenges, telecommunication companies need to be proactive and adaptable in their use of social media. This may involve regularly monitoring and analyzing the performance of their social media efforts and making changes as needed, as well as staying up-to-date on the latest social media trends and developments. Additionally, telecommunication companies should have a presence on multiple social media platforms and be prepared to shift their focus as necessary. By being flexible and responsive to changes in the social media landscape, telecommunication companies can maintain customer loyalty and engagement.

To effectively monitor and respond to customer feedback on social media, telecommunication companies should have a process in place to regularly check and review their social media accounts



and pages. This may involve assigning a team or individual to monitor and respond to customer comments and messages, as well as analyzing customer sentiment and sentiment trends over time.

In addition to responding to specific customer inquiries and complaints, telecommunication companies can use customer feedback on social media to identify areas for improvement and make changes to their products and services. By regularly monitoring and responding to customer feedback on social media, telecommunication companies can demonstrate their commitment to customer satisfaction and build customer loyalty.

#### **Conclusion**

While social media interactions can be an important part of the customer experience and can influence customer loyalty, it is important for telecommunication companies to consider the overall customer experience in building and maintaining customer loyalty. This means looking beyond just social media interactions and considering the full range of factors that contribute to the customer experience, including the quality of the products or services, the level of customer service and support, the value that customers perceive they are receiving, and the overall convenience and ease of use of the company's products and services. To improve the overall customer experience and build customer loyalty, telecommunication companies should take a holistic approach that considers all touchpoints of the customer journey. This may involve conducting customer research to understand customer needs and preferences, implementing customer feedback systems to gather ongoing customer feedback, and training employees to provide high-quality customer service and support. By considering the overall customer experience, telecommunication companies can build and maintain customer loyalty more effectively.

### References

- [1] D. L. Duffy, "Customer loyalty strategies," *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, vol. 15, no. 5, pp. 435–448, Jan. 1998.
- [2] V. Kumar and D. Shah, "Building and sustaining profitable customer loyalty for the 21st century," *J. Retail.*, vol. 80, no. 4, pp. 317–329, Jan. 2004.
- [3] W. Reinartz and V. Kumar, "The mismanagement of customer loyalty," *Harv. Bus. Rev.*, vol. 80, no. 7, pp. 86–94, 125, Jul. 2002.
- [4] H. Lv, G. Yu, and G. Wu, "Relationships among customer loyalty, customer satisfaction, corporate image and behavioural intention on social media for a corporation," *Int. J. Inf. Technol. Manage.*, vol. 17, no. 3, pp. 170–183, Jan. 2018.
- [5] M.-K. Kim, M.-C. Park, and D.-H. Jeong, "The effects of customer satisfaction and switching barrier on customer loyalty in Korean mobile telecommunication services," *Telecomm. Policy*, vol. 28, no. 2, pp. 145–159, Mar. 2004.
- [6] R. Boohene and G. K. Q. Agyapong, "Analysis of the antecedents of customer loyalty of telecommunication industry in Ghana: The case of Vodafone (Ghana)," *International Business Research*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 229–240, 2011.
- [7] S. M. Amin, U. N. U. Ahmad, and L. S. Hui, "Factors Contributing to Customer Loyalty Towards Telecommunication Service Provider," *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*, vol. 40, pp. 282–286, Jan. 2012.
- [8] S. Aydin and G. Özer, "The analysis of antecedents of customer loyalty in the Turkish mobile telecommunication market," *Eur. J. Mark.*, vol. 39, no. 7/8, pp. 910–925, Jan. 2005.
- [9] S. Jahanzeb, T. Fatima, and M. B. Khan, "An empirical analysis of customer loyalty in Pakistan's telecommunication industry," *Journal of Database Marketing & Customer Strategy Management*, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 5–15, Mar. 2011.
- [10] J. Sirapracha and G. Tocquer, "Customer experience, brand image and customer loyalty in telecommunication services," in *International Conference on Economics, Business and Marketing Management*, 2012, vol. 29, pp. 112–117.



- [11] I. Shafei and H. Tabaa, "Factors affecting customer loyalty for mobile telecommunication industry," *EuroMed Journal of Business*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 347–361, Sep. 2016.
- [12] M. Laroche, M. R. Habibi, M.-O. Richard, and R. Sankaranarayanan, "The effects of social media based brand communities on brand community markers, value creation practices, brand trust and brand loyalty," *Comput. Human Behav.*, vol. 28, no. 5, pp. 1755–1767, Sep. 2012.
- [13] İ. E. Erdoğmuş and M. Çiçek, "The Impact of Social Media Marketing on Brand Loyalty," *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*, vol. 58, pp. 1353–1360, Oct. 2012.
- [14] B. K. P. D. Balakrishnan, M. I. Dahnil, and W. J. Yi, "The Impact of Social Media Marketing Medium toward Purchase Intention and Brand Loyalty among Generation Y," *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*, vol. 148, pp. 177–185, Aug. 2014.
- [15] A. Senders, R. Govers, and B. Neuts, "Social Media Affecting Tour Operators' Customer Loyalty," *Journal of Travel & Tourism Marketing*, vol. 30, no. 1–2, pp. 41–57, Jan. 2013.
- [16] M. Laroche, M. R. Habibi, and M.-O. Richard, "To be or not to be in social media: How brand loyalty is affected by social media?," *Int. J. Inf. Manage.*, vol. 33, no. 1, pp. 76–82, Feb. 2013.
- [17] W. Weinlich, "Zur Bedeutung der Hattie-Studie für die Kunsterziehung," researchgate.net, 2018
- [18] B. Ibrahim and A. Aljarah, "Dataset of relationships among social media marketing activities, brand loyalty, revisit intention. Evidence from the hospitality industry in Northern Cyprus," *Data Brief*, vol. 21, pp. 1823–1828, Dec. 2018.
- [19] B. Jahn and W. H. Kunz, "A Brand Like a Friend The Influence of Customer Engagement with Social Media Brand Pages on Brand Relationships and Loyalty Intentions," *Available at SSRN 2413909*, 24-Mar-2014.
- [20] M. Keylock and M. Faulds, "From customer loyalty to social advocacy," *Journal of Direct, Data and Digital Marketing Practice*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 160–165, Nov. 2012.
- [21] Jamilah and P. W. Handayani, "Analysis on effects of brand community on brand loyalty in the social media: A case study of an online transportation (UBER)," in 2016 International Conference on Advanced Computer Science and Information Systems (ICACSIS), 2016, pp. 239–244.
- [22] S. Kamboj, B. Sarmah, S. Gupta, and Y. Dwivedi, "Examining branding co-creation in brand communities on social media: Applying the paradigm of Stimulus-Organism-Response," *Int. J. Inf. Manage.*, vol. 39, pp. 169–185, Apr. 2018.