

Analysis of consumer impulsive buying behaviour towards usage of AI on E-commerce

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DOI: doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18206447

Accepted on: 28/12/2025, Published on: 10/01/2026

Abstract:

This study investigates the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on consumers' impulsive purchasing behavior in e-commerce, focusing on AI-driven technologies like personalized recommendations, chatbots, and real-time offers. These innovations influence psychological triggers such as convenience, urgency, and emotional engagement, leading to impulse buys through mechanisms like reduced cognitive load and scarcity bias. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research explores how AI tools stimulate impulsive buying across various consumer demographics. Ethical concerns, including data privacy and consumer exploitation, are also addressed. The study aims to provide insights into AI's role in shaping impulsive behaviour's offering recommendations for e-commerce platforms to balance consumer engagement with ethical marketing practices.

Keywords: AI, E-commerce, Impulsive buying behavior, Data privacy, FOMO.

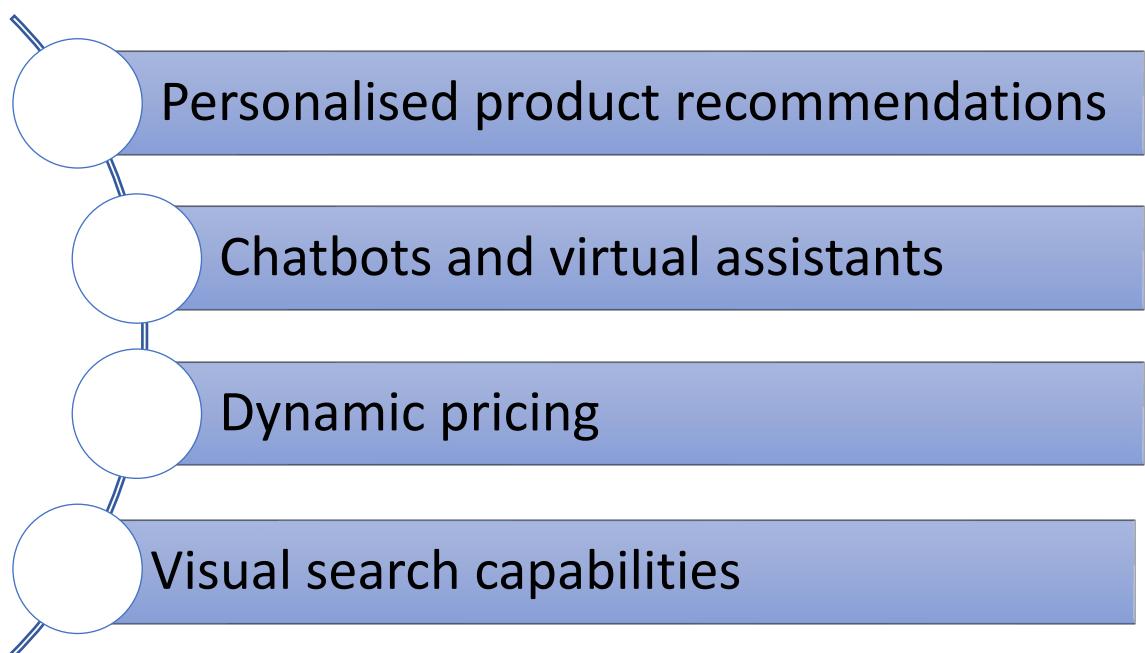
Introduction:

E-commerce has revolutionised the retail sector, allowing enterprises to access worldwide markets and consumers to shop effortlessly from any location. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) into e-commerce systems has significantly improved this experience. Artificial intelligence solutions, including personalised recommendations, chatbots, and predictive analytics, enhance operational efficiency, elevate consumer interaction, and optimise inventory management. As these technologies advance, they influence consumer behaviour and purchasing trends [1]. Impulsive buying behaviour denotes unpremeditated and impulsive acquisitions motivated by emotions rather than logical reasoning. This behaviour is frequently

elicited by external stimuli, like discounts, advertisements, or an immersive online shopping experience [2]. In the realm of e-commerce, elements such as intuitive interfaces, immediate satisfaction from rapid delivery, and tailored recommendations might enhance impulsive purchasing behaviours, prompting consumers to make swift buying decisions without comprehensive evaluation.

Overview of Artificial Intelligence in E-commerce:

Common AI Applications in E-commerce



Source: Created by author

Personalised product recommendations:

Customised product suggestions represent one of the most prevalent applications of artificial intelligence in e-commerce. AI algorithms can recommend products customised to individual preferences by analysing customer behaviour, purchase history, and browsing trends [4]. This improves the buying experience, elevates client satisfaction, and amplifies sales. Companies such as Amazon and Netflix illustrate the efficacy of this strategy, frequently crediting substantial segments of their revenue to precise recommendations.

Chatbots and virtual assistants:

Chatbots and virtual assistants have transformed customer service in e-commerce. These AI-powered solutions offer instant assistance by addressing common enquiries, aiding with product searches, and directing customers through the purchasing procedure [3]. By providing round-the-clock service, chatbots diminish response times and improve client engagement. Furthermore, they collect essential data on client interactions, enabling organisations to enhance their plans and elevate service quality over time.

Dynamic pricing:

Dynamic pricing utilises AI algorithms to modify prices according to several factors, such as demand variations, rival pricing, and consumer behaviour. This method enables e-commerce platforms to optimise price instantaneously, enhancing profits while maintaining competitiveness. Airlines and ride-sharing businesses often utilise dynamic pricing to regulate inventory and demand, hence maximising profits during peak periods.

Visual:

Visual search technology allows users to locate things through images instead of text. These systems employ AI and machine learning to analyse visual information and recognise analogous goods in the retailer's inventory. This improves user experience by streamlining the search process, especially for visually-oriented consumers. Platforms such as Pinterest and Google Lens have innovated this capability, facilitating users' ability to locate objects observed in reality.

Benefits of AI for E-commerce Platforms:

Customised recommendations and chatbots facilitate individualised encounters, rendering purchasing more interesting and pleasurable for consumers. This tailored strategy cultivates consumer allegiance and promotes repeat patronage. AI automates numerous operations, like inventory management and customer service, enabling firms to use resources more judiciously. This efficiency results in cost reductions and enhanced operational performance. AI examines extensive data sets to identify patterns and trends that might guide marketing tactics and product development [5]. Businesses may make educated judgements, customising their services to better align with consumer wants. Companies that implement AI

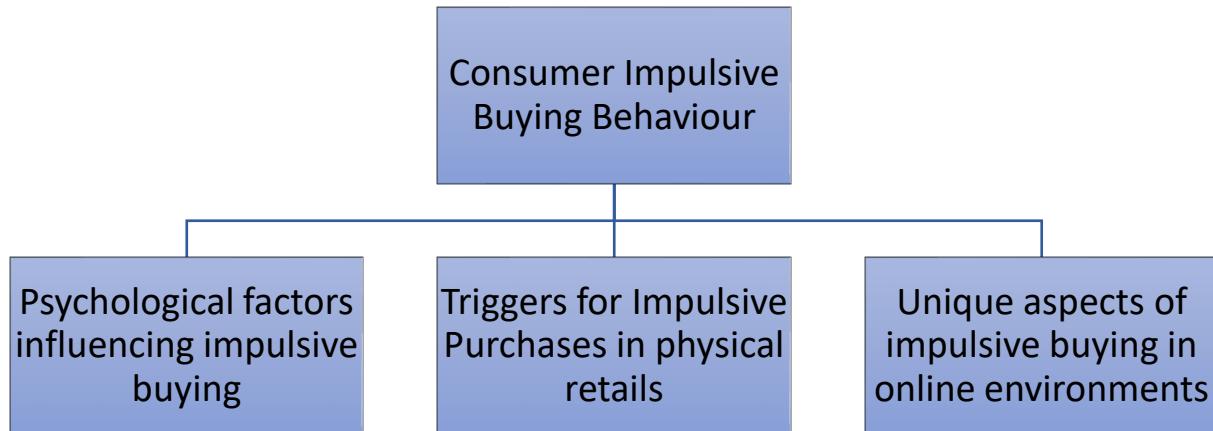
technologies can distinguish themselves in a saturated market. Utilising AI for tailored marketing, adaptive pricing, and improved customer service enables them to acquire and retain clients more efficiently than their competitors.

Challenges and limitations of AI Implementation:

The development and integration of AI solutions can incur significant expenses, especially for small and medium-sized organisations (SMEs). The preliminary investment in technology, infrastructure, and human capital may constitute a barrier to entry. Given AI's substantial dependence on data, apprehensions around data privacy and security are critical. E-commerce enterprises must comply with legislation such as GDPR and ensure responsible management of client data, complicating the implementation of AI. The efficacy of AI systems is contingent upon the quality of the data utilised for training. Biased or unrepresentative training data may result in algorithms generating skewed outcomes, resulting in inequitable treatment of specific client groups or suboptimal decision-making.

AI technology necessitates continual maintenance and updates to sustain efficacy. As consumer preferences and market conditions evolve, firms must consistently enhance their AI models to address emerging challenges and opportunities. Certain consumers may exhibit reluctance to engage with AI-driven solutions, favouring human engagement instead. Businesses must achieve equilibrium between automation and personal interaction, ensuring that clients feel at ease while working with AI technologies. The incorporation of artificial intelligence in e-commerce signifies a substantial transformation in business operations and consumer interactions. AI technologies, including personalised suggestions, chatbots, dynamic pricing, and visual search functionalities, improve the shopping experience and optimise operations; however, concerns related to cost, privacy, and bias require attention. As the e-commerce sector evolves, organisations that adeptly leverage AI's capabilities while addressing its constraints will be more strategically positioned for success in the competitive market.

Consumer Impulsive Buying Behaviour:



Source: Created by author

Psychological Factors Influencing Impulsive Buying:

Emotional state- Emotional states significantly influence impulsive purchasing behaviour. Positive emotions, such as exhilaration or joy, might prompt impulsive purchases as customers endeavour to elevate their mood. Conversely, adverse feelings, such as tension or worry, may inspire impulsive purchasing as a means of escapism or self-soothing [6]. **Self-control and impulsivity-** control are a crucial determinant of impulsivity. Individuals with poor self-regulation are more susceptible to impulsive purchasing, frequently prioritising instant satisfaction over long-term repercussions. This impulsivity can be intensified in settings that encourage rapid decision-making.

Cognitive Dissonance- The inclination to harmonise actions with self-perception may also affect impulsive buying behaviour. Consumers may purchase products that validate their identity or values, resulting in impulsive choices to enhance self-esteem or conform to a preferred social group.

Social Influences- Peer pressure and societal norms might affect impulsive purchasing behaviour. When consumers witness friends or influencers make impulsive purchases, they may feel a want to participate, resulting in a herd mentality that promotes impulsivity.

Traditional triggers for impulsive purchase in physical retail:

Store layout and product placement- The configuration of products can profoundly affect consumer behaviour. Merchandise positioned near checkout counters is more prone to

impulsive purchases as consumers await payment. Visually striking displays and deliberate positioning can attract attention and promote impulsive purchases.

Sales and Promotions- Discounts, time-sensitive deals, and promotions provide a sense of urgency that might stimulate impulsive buying behaviour. Consumers frequently feel urged to capitalise on apparent discounts, resulting in impulsive purchasing decisions.

Sensory experiences- Physical retail establishments stimulate numerous senses, hence enriching the shopping experience. Inviting aromas, harmonious melodies, and attractive pictures can foster a hospitable environment that prompts buyers to remain and investigate, hence enhancing the probability of spontaneous purchases.

Sales personnel- Engagement with sales personnel may serve as a catalyst. Affable and persuasive personnel can sway consumers' choices, prompting them to contemplate things they had not intended to purchase.

Unique aspects of impulsive buying in online environment

Ease of access and convenience- The convenience of online shopping facilitates swift purchasing for consumers. Through a mere few clicks, individuals can procure things devoid of the physical constraints of a retail establishment, potentially resulting in more impulsive choices.

Personalized recommendations- AI-generated personalised product recommendations, informed by browsing history and prior purchases, can incite impulsive purchasing behaviour. Consumers are more likely to engage in impulse purchases when they encounter things customised to their preferences, perceiving these items as particularly aligned with their tastes [10].

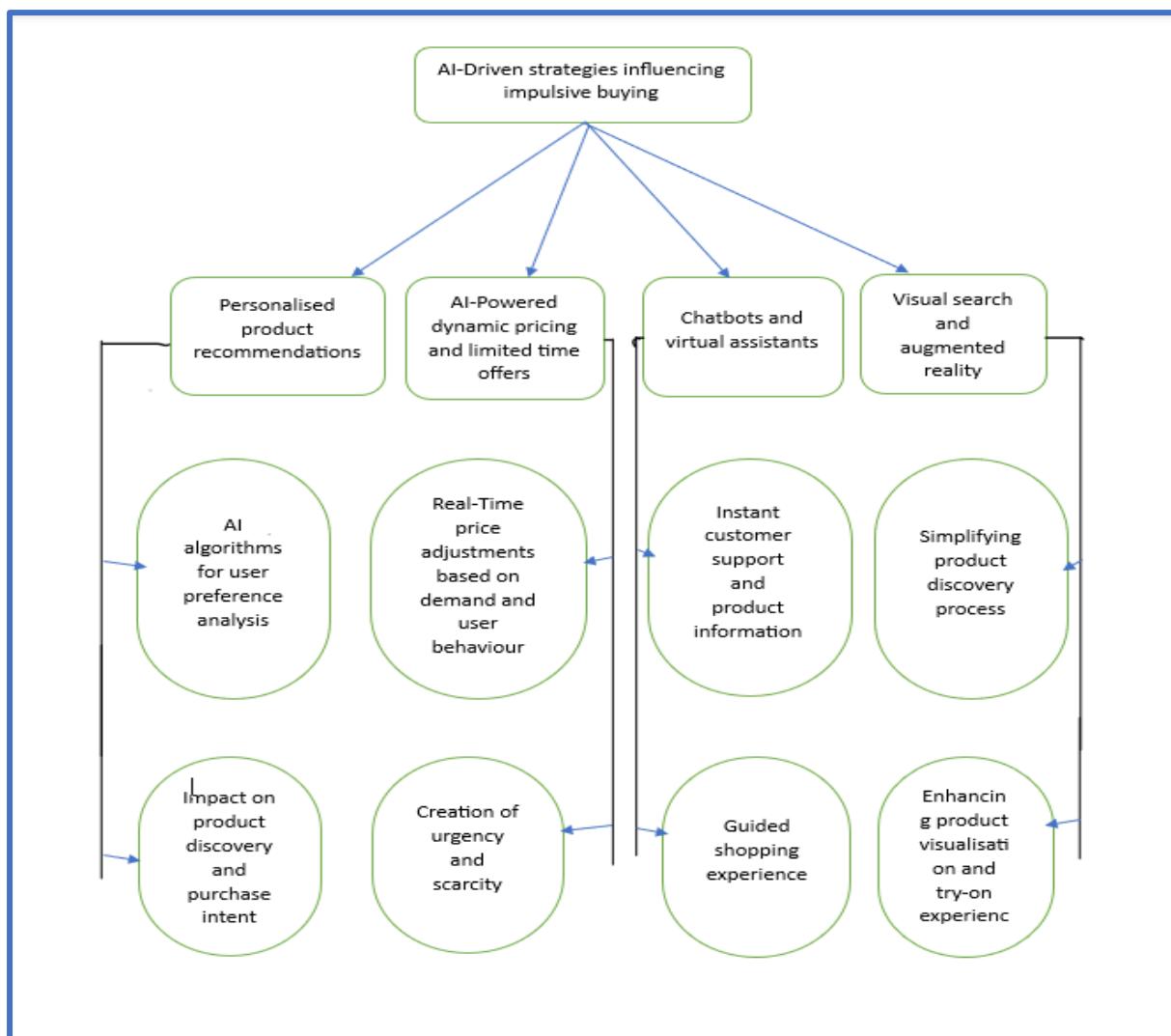
Social proof and reviews- Online reviews and ratings function as social proof, shaping buyers' impressions of products. Affirmative feedback from peers can foster trust and urgency, inciting impulsive purchases as customers aspire to engage with a trend or evade the fear of missing out.

Time-Sensitive Promotions and Flash Sales- E-commerce platforms often utilise strategies such as flash sales or countdown timers, instilling a sense of urgency that might incite impulsive buying behaviour. The fear of missing out (FOMO) is intensified in the digital realm, prompting customers to move swiftly to obtain offers.

Gamification Elements- Numerous e-commerce platforms implement gamification tactics, such as loyalty points and rewards systems, to promote participation. These factors can generate enthusiasm and motivate consumers to engage in impulsive purchases to obtain rewards or attain status.

Diminished Social Cues- The lack of physical indicators, such as store atmosphere or sales staff, compels consumers to depend increasingly on digital stimuli. This transition may result in heightened dependence on emotional stimuli and impulsiveness, as the decision-making process is less moderated by external social factors.

AI-Driven Approaches Impacting Impulsive Purchases



Source: created by author

AI Algorithms for user preference analysis:

Algorithms for Analysing User Preferences Using Artificial Intelligence Customised product suggestions are fundamental to the e-commerce experience, utilising sophisticated AI algorithms that examine extensive datasets to forecast customer inclinations. These algorithms analyse user behaviour, encompassing previous purchases, browsing history, and the duration spent on particular products. Utilising methods like collaborative filtering and machine learning, AI can discern trends and similarities among users, providing personalised recommendations that align with individual preferences. This focused strategy enhances the probability of impulsive purchases, as consumers are shown products that closely match their preferences.

Impact on product discovery and purchase intent

The influence of personalised suggestions on product discovery is significant. Consumers are more inclined to investigate and make spontaneous purchases when they meet things that align with their tastes. Studies indicate that tailored recommendations can markedly enhance click-through and conversion rates, hence boosting revenues [7]. This improved product discovery not only enables prompt purchases but also cultivates a bond between the consumer and the brand, promoting enduring loyalty and repeat transactions.

Real-Time price adjustments based on demand and user behaviour

Dynamic pricing use AI algorithms to modify product prices in real-time, influenced by factors such as demand variability, rival pricing, and consumer behaviour. Through the analysis of data points, including browsing trends and inventory levels, businesses may optimise pricing to enhance revenue while maintaining competitiveness. For example, if a product is often browsed but not acquired, the system may reduce the price to stimulate a purchase. The capacity to swiftly respond to market fluctuations improves the shopping experience and may incite impulsive purchasing, as buyers perceive they are obtaining a favourable bargain.

Creation of urgency and scarcity

Time-sensitive promotions and flash sales, driven by dynamic pricing methods, generate urgency and scarcity that can profoundly affect consumer behaviour. By informing

customers that a promotion is time-limited or that inventory is scarce, businesses can stimulate swift purchasing decisions. This fear of missing out (FOMO) encourages impulsive purchasing as customers hasten to obtain a perceived deal. Artificial intelligence is essential in orchestrating these advertisements, guaranteeing optimal timing and targeting to enhance effectiveness [8][9].

Instant customer support and product information

Chatbots and virtual assistants augment the e-commerce experience by delivering immediate customer help and product information. These AI-powered tools can respond to enquiries, facilitate product searches, and navigate consumers through the purchasing process, enhancing the shopping experience's efficiency and fluidity. This immediacy enhances customer happiness and diminishes the friction that may result in abandoned carts. Timely assistance increases the likelihood of consumers completing their purchases, frequently impulsively, due to the efficient engagement.

Guided shopping experiences

AI-driven chatbots can generate customised shopping experiences by recommending products according to customer input and preferences. A consumer may interact with a chatbot to identify a gift; the bot can enquire about preferences and subsequently suggest appropriate products. This assistance may result in unforeseen findings and incite spontaneous purchases as consumers perceive validation in their decision-making. The integration of immediate support and customised recommendations can markedly increase the probability of impulsive acquisitions.

Simplifying product discovery process

Visual search technology enables users to locate products through visuals rather than text, thereby streamlining the product discovery process. Users can discover comparable things for sale by uploading a photo or utilising their camera. This trait is especially significant in fashion and home decor, where aesthetic appeal is crucial. The convenience of locating desired things via visual search might result in impulsive purchases, since buyers may be motivated to acquire items, they had not previously contemplated.

Enhancing product visualisation and try-on experiences

Augmented reality enriches the shopping experience by enabling consumers to visualise objects inside their own environment or to virtually try on items. For instance, augmented reality applications allow users to see furniture in their living space or assess the fit of apparel before to purchase. This immersive experience enhances consumer confidence and promotes impulsive purchasing, as the opportunity to “try before you buy” mitigates the perceived risks of online shopping. By integrating visual search with augmented reality, companies can develop compelling experiences that engage consumers and stimulate spontaneous purchases [11].

Psychological mechanisms behind AI-Influenced impulsive buying

The major psychological mechanism influencing impulsive purchasing behaviour in e-commerce is the heightened personalisation provided by AI technologies. Customised experiences foster a sense of understanding and appreciation among consumers, so substantially improving their buying experience. AI algorithms evaluate extensive datasets to customise product recommendations according to personal tastes, previous purchases, and browsing behaviour. This degree of personalisation fosters a sense of relevance; consumers encounter products that closely correspond with their interests, facilitating the justification of unplanned purchases. When consumers meet goods that directly resonate with them, their emotional engagement intensifies, frequently resulting in impulsive purchasing decisions. As ideas become increasingly pertinent, consumers are required to engage in less searching or comparison, leading to expedited and impulsive decisions. AI-driven solutions significantly facilitate consumer decision-making, hence alleviating cognitive stress. Cognitive load denotes the mental exertion necessary for information processing and decision-making. In conventional shopping environments, buyers frequently experience decision fatigue due to the excessive number of available options. AI addresses this difficulty by curating product selections based on user data, enabling consumers to concentrate on a reduced, more manageable array of options. This limitation of options facilitates rapid decision-making for consumers, frequently resulting in impulsive acquisitions. When customers experience reduced decision-making burdens and can readily recognise attractive things, they are more inclined to act on their impulses rather than engage in extended deliberation regarding their purchases [8]. AI-driven personalised experiences substantially enhance the emotional bond between consumers and

brands. Emotional appeal serves as a potent motivator in consumer behaviour, and AI may augment this by providing customised information and product recommendations that resonate personally. AI technologies can successfully use different cognitive biases that affect customer behaviour, hence promoting impulsive purchasing. Scarcity bias is a psychological phenomenon in which individuals assign greater value to objects they consider to be restricted or scarce. Artificial intelligence can generate artificial scarcity through dynamic pricing and time-limited promotions. For example, an online store may display a countdown timer for a promotion or indicate limited availability of a popular product. This instils a sense of urgency, prompting consumers to make rapid, impulsive choices to obtain a product before it becomes inaccessible. Fear of missing out (FOMO) is a significant catalyst for impulsive purchasing behaviour. Artificial intelligence amplifies this sensation by emphasising popular products or displaying real-time consumer purchasing behaviour. The observation of others purchasing particular things instils a dread of missing a significant chance among customers [11]. AI-generated suggestions may highlight scarcity or trending options, encouraging consumers to engage in impulsive buying due to apprehension of missing out on appealing items. The anchoring effect is a cognitive bias in which individuals disproportionately depend on the initial piece of information encountered during decision-making. In e-commerce, artificial intelligence can utilise this by presenting original prices in conjunction with lowered prices. Consumers see a deal as more value when a higher "anchor" price is displayed alongside a discounted price, which encourages impulsive purchasing due to the apparent savings. As e-commerce advances, utilising these psychological mechanisms will be crucial for companies aiming to enhance client engagement and increase sales. By adeptly executing AI strategies that connect with consumers on emotional and cognitive dimensions, organisations may cultivate settings that promote impulsive purchasing while concurrently enhancing customer loyalty and satisfaction.

Ethical Considerations and Consumer Protection

Transparency is an essential ethical factor in the application of AI for product suggestions and dynamic pricing. Consumers possess the right to comprehend the utilisation of their data in shaping the advice they receive and the prices they encounter. Transparent information regarding the algorithms that underpin these suggestions can foster confidence

between consumers and brands. When corporations reveal their data collection methodologies and the parameters for pricing modifications, they enable consumers to make informed choices [13]. For example, if a merchant employs dynamic pricing influenced by demand variations, consumers must be informed about how these elements affect the prices they face. Insufficient transparency may engender perceptions of manipulation, undermining consumer trust and potentially attracting regulatory examination. Data privacy constitutes a critical ethical concern in AI-driven e-commerce. As corporations accumulate extensive personal data to improve personalisation, the likelihood of data breaches and misuse escalates. Consumers frequently disclose sensitive information without comprehending the ramifications, resulting in apprehensions regarding the storage, utilisation, and dissemination of their data. The ethical management of consumer data requires stringent security protocols and transparent privacy regulations [12]. Organisations must guarantee adherence to rules such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which establish criteria for data protection and consumer rights. Neglecting to safeguard consumer data may lead to legal repercussions and harm a brand's reputation. AI technologies may unintentionally exploit susceptible consumers, hence engendering considerable ethical dilemmas. Individuals who are less technologically proficient, financially insecure, or encountering other obstacles may be more vulnerable to aggressive AI-driven marketing strategies. Targeted advertising can build a sense of urgency that exploits emotional vulnerabilities, resulting in impulsive purchasing decisions that may not serve the consumer's best interests. Companies must evaluate the ethical ramifications of their marketing techniques, ensuring they do not exploit consumers' psychological vulnerabilities. Establishing protections, including ethical criteria for targeting at-risk communities, is crucial to avert exploitation and ensure consumer welfare. Regulatory frameworks are essential in tackling the ethical dilemmas presented by AI in e-commerce. Governments and regulatory agencies are intensifying their examination of AI practices to guarantee consumer protection and equitable competition. Initiatives may encompass the formulation of principles for transparency in AI algorithms, mandating corporations to reveal their data practices, and instituting steps to prevent prejudice [14].

The incorporation of AI in e-commerce presents various advantages; nevertheless, it also introduces significant ethical issues that require attention to safeguard customers. Transparency

in AI-generated recommendations and pricing is crucial for building trust, while worries around data protection require rigorous protective measures. The potential to exploit vulnerable consumers underscores the necessity for ethical marketing techniques. The evolution of regulatory approaches necessitates a key integration of governmental monitoring and industry self-regulation to ensure the responsible use of AI technologies. By emphasising ethical issues, firms may establish a more equitable and transparent e-commerce landscape that honours consumer rights and cultivates enduring loyalty. Tackling these difficulties not only safeguards customers but also fortifies the integrity and sustainability of the e-commerce sector overall.

Future trends and implications:

Progressions in AI Technology and Possible Effects on Impulsive Purchasing

As AI technology advances, its influence on impulsive purchasing behaviour is expected to increase. Progress in machine learning and natural language processing will result in increasingly complex algorithms that can forecast consumer preferences with enhanced precision. This advancement will provide hyper-personalization, wherein recommendations are determined not just by historical behaviours but also by real-time contexts, including location, weather, and social media trends. The amalgamation of AI with nascent technologies like augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) will generate immersive retail experiences that can profoundly impact impulsive purchasing behaviour. Consumers may encounter virtual worlds that facilitate real-time interaction with products, resulting in heightened engagement and impulsivity in purchasing decisions. As AI gains prominence, it will also evoke ethical questions. Retailers must balance effective marketing methods with ethical considerations to avoid manipulation. The capacity of AI to generate customised experiences that stimulate impulsive purchasing is considerable; yet, there exists a corresponding obligation to maintain ethical standards and uphold consumer autonomy. Consumer perceptions of AI in e-commerce are changing, shaped by heightened knowledge of data privacy and ethical issues. Although numerous users value the convenience and customisation provided by AI, apprehensions over data exploitation and insufficient transparency are rising. Future trends will likely indicate that consumers will seek greater control over their data and a more transparent comprehension of its use. Enterprises may need to implement more transparent processes to cultivate confidence. This may involve presenting more transparent privacy policies, enabling users to tailor their data-sharing preferences, and elucidating the process by which suggestions are produced.

Brands that effectively integrate personalisation with ethical considerations are likely to achieve a competitive advantage in consumer attraction and retention [15]. The future of e-commerce will necessitate a careful equilibrium between fulfilling company goals and prioritising consumer welfare. Although hasty purchasing may boost immediate sales, sustained success depends on cultivating authentic client loyalty and happiness. Brands that exploit impulsive purchasing without consideration for consumer welfare jeopardise their brand and erode customer trust. E-commerce enterprises must implement responsible marketing strategies that emphasise ethical behaviours to attain this equilibrium. This may entail imposing restrictions on aggressive marketing strategies and emphasising transparency in AI-mediated interactions. Companies must invest in consumer education, facilitating customers' comprehension of the technologies that affect their purchase decisions and enabling them to make informed choices.

Conclusion

The use of AI into e-commerce has significantly impacted customer behaviour, especially with impulsive purchasing. AI-driven personalisation improves product relevance, diminishes cognitive burden, and engages emotions, hence significantly elevating the probability of impulsive purchases. Nonetheless, these developments entail ethical ramifications, encompassing issues related to data privacy, the exploitation of susceptible consumers, and the necessity for openness. AI technology progresses, the likelihood of heightened impulsive purchasing will increase, with evolving consumer sentiments that necessitate ethical procedures. Reconciling company objectives with consumer welfare will be essential for sustained success in the dynamic e-commerce environment. E-commerce enterprises must manage the intricacies of AI's impact on consumer behaviour while adhering to ethical standards. Marketers ought to utilise AI technologies to improve the shopping experience while ensuring transparency and safeguarding consumer data and privacy. Establishing trust via ethical marketing techniques would not only bolster client loyalty but also foster a sustainable business strategy. Enterprises must be proactive in comprehending and addressing the psychological mechanisms that influence impulsive purchasing behaviour. By cultivating authentic emotional bonds with consumers and emphasising their welfare, brands may establish a devoted clientele that appreciates their ethical principles.

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