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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF CUSTOMER RATINGS AND REPEAT PURCHASE BEHAVIOUR ON BLINKIT AND FLIPKART USING REGRESSION AND CORRELATION MODELS

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ABSTRACT

As consumer preferences evolve in India's dynamic e-commerce environment, platforms such as Blinkit and Flipkart must align their operations with customer expectations. This study investigates the impact of customer ratings and reviews on repeat purchase behaviour and monthly sales performance. Unlike traditional studies focusing on delivery speed or pricing, this paper explores how customer-generated ratings influence business outcomes. Regression and correlation models are applied to evaluate these relationships across Blinkit (focused on ultrafast grocery delivery) and Flipkart (a broad-spectrum e-commerce platform). Primary data was collected from 300 regular online shoppers in Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Pune using structured questionnaires and in-app behavioural data. Secondary data was extracted from app reviews, official e-commerce reports, and usage analytics. The independent variables included average product ratings, app interface satisfaction, review length, and review frequency. Dependent variables included repeat purchase frequency and monthly spending. Results from multiple linear regression revealed that for Blinkit, shorter, frequent reviews and higher ratings significantly predicted repeat orders. For Flipkart, the quality of reviews and consistency of ratings showed a stronger correlation with monthly purchase volume. Pearson correlation further confirmed strong positive relationships between rating consistency and consumer loyalty. This study contributes to academic discourse by uncovering rating behaviour as a key influencer in e-commerce growth, especially in post-pandemic consumer patterns. It also provides strategic insights to e-retailers seeking to optimize feedback systems to enhance customer engagement and retention. Further studies could integrate sentiment analysis and machine learning models for predictive purchase behaviour across digital platforms.

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INTRODUCTION

The Indian e-commerce sector has transformed significantly over the last decade. With rapid smartphone penetration, enhanced payment systems, and evolving customer behaviour, digital retail has expanded beyond metro cities into Tier II and Tier III locations. Two prominent players driving this transformation are Blinkit and Flipkart. Blinkit has pioneered the ultrafast grocery delivery model, offering users delivery in under 15 minutes, whereas Flipkart has emerged as a comprehensive e-commerce platform dealing in electronics, fashion, groceries, and more. While many studies have evaluated operational efficiency, pricing strategies, or logistical models, limited attention has been paid to customer-generated content such as reviews and ratings despite their growing importance in influencing purchase decisions. This study aims to fill that gap by examining how customer ratings and reviews on Blinkit and Flipkart influence repeat purchases and monthly sales. Customer reviews are now central to digital shopping.

Before purchasing, consumers often scan ratings and detailed feedback. A 2023 survey by Local Circles revealed that 83% of Indian online buyers read at least three reviews before placing an order. Ratings also provide companies with qualitative and quantitative insights into service gaps, product dissatisfaction, and areas for improvement. Therefore, understanding the role of ratings and their correlation with actual purchasing behaviour is crucial. For platforms like Blinkit, which focuses on speed and convenience, ratings often revolve around delivery time, product freshness, and packaging. On Flipkart, customer reviews are more diverse, reflecting the range of product categories—from electronics to apparel. Consequently, the structure and influence of reviews differ significantly between the two platforms. This study aims to explore the predictive power of ratings and customer reviews on key business outcomes: repeat purchases and monthly spending. Regression analysis allows us to isolate the effect of each independent variable (e.g., average rating, review frequency) on the dependent variables. Correlation analysis helps determine the strength and direction of the relationships. The significance of this study lies in its practical

applications. E-commerce managers can use insights to redesign rating systems, promote authentic reviews, and personalize promotions for loyal customers. Additionally, it adds a new dimension to e-commerce analytics, emphasizing customer content rather than operational parameters alone.

Need of the Study: In the growing Indian e-commerce landscape, customer reviews and ratings play a crucial role in shaping purchasing decisions. However, few studies have analysed their direct impact on repeat purchases and monthly spending. This study is needed to fill that gap using statistical models on Blinkit and Flipkart, offering insights into how user feedback influences customer behaviour and loyalty.

Focus of the Study: The study focuses on examining how average product ratings, review frequency, review length, and satisfaction scores affect consumer behavior on Blinkit and Flipkart. It aims to analyze their relationship with repeat purchase frequency and monthly spending through regression and correlation models.

Objectives of the Study

1. To analyse the impact of customer ratings and review frequency on repeat purchases for Blinkit and Flipkart using regression analysis.
2. To determine the strength of correlation between review quality (length, consistency, sentiment) and monthly purchase volume across both platforms.

Limitations of the Study: The study is limited by its small sample size (300 users across three cities), cross-sectional design, and reliance on self-reported data. It does not account for seasonal factors, promotional events, or advanced analytical methods like sentiment analysis, which could offer deeper insights

LITERATURE REVIEW

Verma & Srivastava (2021) the research conducted a comprehensive study on the effect of customer reviews in the electronics segment of Indian e-commerce. Their research revealed that detailed customer reviews, especially those with more than four-star ratings, led to a 35% increase in sales conversion. Using regression analysis, they established a statistically significant positive relationship between the volume and quality of reviews and purchase intent. The study emphasized that customer trust, built through genuine and detailed feedback, acts as a catalyst in the buyer decision-making process. In particular, verified reviews and those accompanied by product images enhanced credibility. Their work is highly relevant for platforms like Flipkart, where high-involvement products (such as electronics and appliances) dominate sales. The findings support the idea that online platforms should actively promote authentic reviews to improve customer confidence, which ultimately results in increased revenue and customer retention.

Patel & Rane (2022) the study on the role of short-format customer reviews in the context of grocery delivery platforms, with a specific emphasis on Blinkit. Their study demonstrated that quick, concise, and frequent feedback—such as emojis or brief text comments—had a higher correlation with repeat purchases compared to lengthy reviews. Through data collected from user interactions and app behavior, they found that Blinkit users were more likely to leave feedback immediately after delivery, often within minutes. These micro-reviews, while minimal in content, had strong predictive power for customer loyalty. Their analysis suggests that in quick commerce, where transactions are fast and frequent, immediacy and emotional expression in reviews matter more than depth. This supports the idea that even brief user-generated content can serve as a valuable data point for customer retention strategies. The study encourages platforms to simplify the review process to increase engagement and actionable insights.

Kaur & Joshi (2020) this study explored the emotional dimensions of customer feedback in fashion e-commerce platforms. Their study used text mining techniques to analyse large datasets of reviews from online fashion retailers. The focus was on the sentiment expressed in the reviews—particularly positive emotional language like “amazing fit,” “totally worth it,” or “loved the product.” Their findings suggested that positive sentiment had a stronger effect on brand loyalty and return purchases than neutral or factual feedback. Although regression analysis was not used, their work laid the foundation for understanding how tone and language influence customer perceptions. The study is particularly relevant for platforms like Flipkart, where emotional satisfaction in product experience—especially in fashion, beauty, and accessories—can significantly shape long-term buying behaviour. The authors recommended integrating sentiment-based filters in review sorting, allowing users to quickly access emotionally positive or negative experiences, thereby enriching the user journey and boosting trust.

Iyer & Mehta (2023) the researcher investigated the connection between app user experience (UX) and customer review behaviour. Their research found that the ease of navigation, search filters, and in-app personalization significantly influenced users’ willingness to leave feedback. In the case of Flipkart, they observed that a user-friendly interface led to more consistent, detailed, and high-quality reviews. The study showed that users who could quickly locate products, apply relevant filters, and complete transactions without errors were more inclined to share their experiences positively. These reviews tended to be more structured and reliable, improving their impact on potential buyers. The research implies that better UX indirectly increases the richness of customer data collected post-purchase. Their findings encourage platforms to invest in app design and user flow optimization not only for higher conversion rates but also to enhance feedback generation, which can be analysed for improving product offerings and customer engagement strategies.

Rathi & Prasad (2021) the examined the role of timing in customer review submission and its impact on buyer influence. They discovered that reviews posted within the first hour of delivery tended to be more emotionally charged and had a greater influence on first-time buyers. This finding was particularly relevant for Blinkit, where immediate consumption of groceries leads to instant feedback. The researchers found that recency and context relevance of a review made it more impactful in shaping new customer decisions. These reviews often included impressions about delivery speed, product freshness, and packaging. Unlike delayed reviews, immediate ones captured the authentic emotional response of the user. The study emphasized incorporating time-based analysis into review sorting algorithms, allowing platforms to prioritize recent feedback. The findings suggest that Blinkit should encourage users to review instantly after order completion to enhance relevance and engagement. Real-time feedback loops could enhance trust and drive customer retention.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data collection with statistical modelling to examine the impact of customer-generated content on performance outcomes for Blinkit and Flipkart.

Research Design: A cross-sectional research design was used to measure the relationship between customer feedback variables (like ratings, reviews, and satisfaction) and e-commerce outcomes such as repeat purchases and monthly spending.

Sampling: The study surveyed 300 regular online shoppers, equally divided between Blinkit (150) and Flipkart (150), using stratified random sampling across the Indian metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru.

Primary Data Collection

Structured online questionnaires were used to collect the following variables:

- Average Product Rating (1–5 scale)
- Review Frequency (reviews per month)
- Review Length (word count)
- Customer Satisfaction Score (scale 1–10)
- Monthly Purchase Frequency
- Average Monthly Spend (₹)

Secondary Data Collection

The study also included relevant secondary data:

- App Review Data: Review timestamps, word counts, and number of likes/dislikes
- App Usage Statistics: From SimilarWeb and App Annie
- Industry Reports: From Statista, NielsenIQ, and published e-commerce studies

Analytical Tools

To analyse the data, the following statistical tools were used:

- Multiple Linear Regression: To determine the impact of each independent variable on the outcomes.
- Pearson’s Correlation Coefficient: To evaluate the strength and direction of relationships between variables.

This model was separately applied to data collected from Blinkit and Flipkart users to capture platform-specific behaviours and patterns. The regression analysis was conducted using statistical software, ensuring accurate estimation of coefficients and significance testing. Regression Model: $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \epsilon$

Hypothesis of the Study

Hypothesis 1 – Blinkit

- Null Hypothesis (H₀): There is no significant relationship between customer ratings and repeat purchases on Blinkit.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H₁): There is a significant relationship between customer ratings and repeat purchases on Blinkit.

Hypothesis 2 – Flipkart

- Null Hypothesis (H₀): Customer review length has no significant impact on monthly sales on Flipkart.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H₁): Customer review length significantly impacts monthly sales on Flipkart.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study investigates the influence of customer-generated feedbacks specifically ratings, review behaviour, and satisfaction scores on repeat purchases and monthly spending patterns on two major Indian e-commerce platforms, Blinkit and Flipkart.

Table 1. Regression Analysis Results

Independent Variable	Blinkit (β)	p-value	Significance	Flipkart (β)	p-value	Significance
X ₁ : Average Product Rating	0.42	< 0.01	Significant	0.35	< 0.05	Significant
X ₂ : Review Frequency	0.61	< 0.01	Significant	0.29	< 0.05	Significant
X ₃ : Review Length	0.09	0.12	Not Significant	0.47	< 0.01	Significant
X ₄ : Satisfaction Score	0.58	< 0.01	Significant	0.52	< 0.01	Significant
R-squared (R ²)	0.77	—	—	0.73	—	—
Adjusted R-squared	0.75	—	—	0.70	—	—

Table 2.

Hypothesis	Variable	p-value	Decision	Conclusion
H ₁ (Blinkit)	Customer Rating → Repeat Purchase	< 0.01	Reject H ₀	Significant positive relationship
H ₂ (Flipkart)	Review Length → Monthly Sales	< 0.01	Reject H ₀	Significant positive relationship

Regression Model: This study applies a Multiple Linear Regression model to examine the impact of customer-generated content—specifically ratings and reviews—on key consumer behaviour outcomes: repeat purchase frequency and monthly spending. The goal is to isolate the influence of each independent variable while controlling for the effects of the others, providing a precise measurement of how each factor contributes to overall user engagement on Blinkit and Flipkart.

The general form of the regression model used in this analysis is:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \epsilon$$

Where:

- Y represents the dependent variable (either repeat purchase frequency or monthly spending),
- X₁ is the average customer rating,
- X₂ is the review frequency (number of reviews written per month),
- X₃ is the review length (measured in number of words),
- X₄ is the satisfaction score (on a 1–10 scale),
- β₀ is the intercept,
- β₁ to β₄ are the regression coefficients for the respective variables, and
- ε is the error term.

Employing multiple linear regression and Pearson correlation models, the research establishes clear relationships between independent variables and performance outcomes. The regression analysis highlights key differences in customer behavior between Blinkit and Flipkart. For Blinkit, average product rating (β = 0.42, p < 0.01) and review frequency (β = 0.61, p < 0.01) significantly impact repeat purchase frequency, suggesting that users are influenced by quick, consistent feedback. While satisfaction score (β = 0.58, p < 0.01) also strongly predicts customer retention, review length (β = 0.09, p = 0.12) is not statistically significant, indicating that detail is less critical on Blinkit. The model’s R² of 0.77 reflects strong explanatory power. Flipkart’s users respond not only to average rating (β = 0.35, p < 0.05) and review frequency (β = 0.29, p < 0.05) but show a strong response to review length (β = 0.47, p < 0.01). This suggests that detailed reviews influence spending decisions. The satisfaction score (β = 0.52, p < 0.01) also plays a crucial role. With an R² of 0.73, the model reliably explains purchase volume. Blinkit is driven by quick, frequent engagement, while Flipkart thrives on review depth and comprehensive feedback, reflecting the different customer expectations and shopping patterns on both platforms. The study tested two hypotheses using multiple linear regression analysis. For Hypothesis 1 (H₁) related to Blinkit, the variable examined was the customer rating’s impact on repeat purchases. The regression analysis yielded a p-value less than 0.01, indicating that the relationship is statistically significant at the 1% level. Based on this result, the null hypothesis (H₀)—which stated that customer ratings have no

significant impact was rejected. Therefore, it is concluded that there is a significant positive relationship between customer ratings and repeat purchase behaviour on Blinkit. For Hypothesis 2 (H₂) concerning Flipkart, the focus was on the influence of review length on monthly sales volume. The regression output showed a p-value less than 0.01, confirming a strong statistical significance. Hence, the null hypothesis that review length does not significantly impact monthly spending was also rejected. The analysis leads to the conclusion that longer customer reviews have a significant positive relationship with monthly sales on Flipkart. Customer ratings and reviews influence both repeat purchases and monthly sales on Blinkit and Flipkart. For Blinkit, short, frequent reviews have a higher impact, aligning with its instant delivery model. For Flipkart, detailed and consistent reviews play a stronger role, especially for high-involvement products. Regression results show satisfaction is the most consistent predictor. Correlation values further confirm strong relationships between rating behaviour and sales metrics. These insights can help platforms optimize review prompts, improve satisfaction metrics, and personalize user incentives.

CONCLUSION

This research highlights the significant impact of customer-generated content—specifically ratings, reviews, and satisfaction scores—on repeat purchasing behaviour and monthly spending in the Indian e-commerce landscape. By applying regression and correlation techniques, the study identified that these variables are meaningful predictors of consumer engagement on both Blinkit and Flipkart. The findings emphasize platform-specific insights. On Blinkit, quick and frequent feedback proves more influential, aligning with its instant grocery delivery model. Conversely, on Flipkart, longer and more detailed reviews strongly affect purchase decisions, especially in categories that require more customer involvement and trust-building. These distinctions suggest that e-commerce platforms can enhance customer retention by customizing their feedback mechanisms to suit their unique operational models. Based on the results, it is recommended that platforms like Blinkit encourage short, real-time reviews post-delivery, while Flipkart could focus on promoting in-depth reviews from verified users. Such strategies may strengthen customer trust, increase repeat business, and improve overall satisfaction. For future studies, integrating tools such as sentiment analysis, text mining, or machine learning could provide deeper insights into the tone and quality of feedback. Expanding the research to include more platforms and varied product categories could further validate and enrich these findings, offering broader implications for digital retail strategies.

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