# THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON MARKETING<sup>1</sup>

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Received: 10.04.2017

Accepted: 10.08.2017

### ABSTRACT

Thanks to advancements in Web 2.0. technology, social networks have emerged. Businesses that care about social media advertise their products to customers through social media. From the perspective of businesses, how social media tools shape marketing is of importance. Businesses which meet current and potential customers' requests and needs use social media to promote their products after producing them. The effects of social media on university students with respect to marketing are aimed to be identified in this study. The data obtained from the questionnaires were analyzed via SPSS 22.0 statistical package program. According to the research results, social media effects purchasing behavior of university students.

Keywords: Social media, marketing, internet.

# SOSYAL MEDYANIN PAZARLAMAYA ETKİSİ

#### ÖZ

Web 2.0 teknolojisindeki gelişmeler sayesinde sosyal ağlar ön plana çıkmaktadır. Sosyal medyayı önemseyen işletmeler ürünlerinin tanıtımını müşterilerine internet üzerinden yapmaktadır. İşletmeler açısından sosyal medya araçlarının pazarlamayı nasıl şekillendirdiği önem arz etmektedir. Mevcut ve potansiyel müşterilerin istek ve ihtiyaçlarını karşılayan işletmeler, ürünlerini ürettikten sonra tanıtmak için sosyal medyayı kullanmaktadır. Sosyal medyanın pazarlama açısından üniversite öğrencileri etkili unsurlarının tespit edilmesi amaçlanmaktadır. Çalışmada öğrencilere yüz yüze anket yöntemiyle anket soruları yöneltilerek, elde edilen veriler SPSS 22.0 istatistik programı yardımı ile değerlendirilmiştir. Araştırma sonucuna göre sosyal medyanın üniversite öğrencilerinin satın alma davranışlarını etkilediği görülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sosyal medya, pazarlama, internet.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bu çalışma 6-8 Nisan 2017'de International Congress Of Eurasian Social Sciences'ta Sözlü Bildiri olarak sunulmuştur.

### **GENİŞ ÖZET**

### GİRİŞ

Türk Dil Kurumu' na göre iletişim "duygu ve düşüncelerimizin bütün yollar kullanılarak başkalarına aktarılması" olarak tanımlanmaktadır. Medya kavramı ise Türk Dil Kurumu tarafından iletişim ortamı ve iletişim araçları şeklinde açıklanmaktadır. (www.tdk.gov.tr, 2017) Sosyal medya ise internet ve teknolojik imkanlar aracılığıyla kişiler, topluluklar ve işletmeler arasında iletişim, işbirliği ve paylaşım gibi pek çok imkânı sağlayan online araçlardır. (Kırcova ve Enginkaya, 2015, 4)

Web 2.0 ve Semantic webde yaşanan teknolojik gelişmeler sayesinde akıllı cihazların kullanımı büyük ölçüde artmıştır. Akıllı cihazlar sayesinde sosyal medya kullanıcıları sosyal medyaya erişimlerini sadece bilgisayarlarından değil kişisel akıllı cihazlarından her ortamda erişim imkanı bulmaktadırlar.

Sosyal medya insanlara yeni düşünce ve fikirlerini paylaşıp sosyalleşme olanağı sunmaktadır. Yapılan çalışmalara bakıldığında insanların sosyal medyada her geçen gün daha fazla vakit ayırdıklarını ve sosyalleşme ihtiyaçlarını bu şekilde giderdikleri görülmektedir. İnsanlar fikir ve ideolojilerini sosyal medya üzerinden paylaştıkları görülmektedir. Bazı sosyal medya araçlarında yazı paylaşılabilirken bazılarında ise fotoğraf, video gibi unsurlar paylaşılıp iletişim sağlanmaktadır. (Elbaşı, 2015)

Halkla ilişkiler açısında değerlendirildiğinde sosyal medyanın tanıtma ve tanıma fonksiyonları vardır. İşletmelerin sosyal medya kanallarını kullanarak yaptığı her türlü reklam, duyuru, bülten vb. faaliyetler sosyal medyanın tanıtma fonksiyonunu oluştururken; işletmelerin sosyal medya kanalları aracılığıyla tüketicilerin istek ve beklentilerini tespit etmesi, geri bildirim ve bilgi toplama vb. faaliyetler de sosyal medyanın tanıma fonksiyonunu oluşturmaktadır. Sosyal medya tüketici ve işletme arasında etkili iletişim imkânı sağlayan ortamlardır (Berkowitz, 2007; Çağlıyan, Işıklar ve Hassan, 2016).

Sosyal medyanın avantajları; düşük maliyetli olması, bilginin hızlı yayılması ve güncel olması, samimiyetin esas olduğu bir ortamda gerçekleşmesi, hedef kitleyi tanıma imkanı vermesi, ölçme ve değerlendirmenin yapılabilmesi, aracısız direk iletişim sağlayarak kişiler arası yakınlık sağlaması, referans yoluyla alınan bilgilerin güvenilir olmasıdır. (Eröz ve Doğdubay, 2012)

Sosyal medyanın dezavantajları ise; sosyal medyadaki paylaşımların çok hızlı yayılması ve kontrol güçlüğü, ürün/hizmet ile ilgili olumsuz eleştirilerin markaların saygınlıkları ve kaliteleri üzerinde yapacağı olumsuz etkiler, kullanıcıların gerçek sosyal ortamlardan uzaklaşması, yalan/yanlış bilgi ve haberlerin kontrolsüzce yayılabilmesidir. (Vural ve Bat, 2010).

Yapılan çalışmada aşağıdaki soruya yanıt aranmıştır:

İşletme bölümü öğrencilerinin, herhangi bir ürünü sosyal medyadan satın alma öncesi ve sonrası davranışlarına ilişkin görüşleri nelerdir?

#### Yöntem

Çalışmanın evrenini, 2016-2017 öğretim yılı güz döneminde Selçuk Üniversitesi Akşehir İİBF İşletme bölümünde okuyan öğrenciler oluşturmaktadır. Genç neslin sosyal medyayı etkin bir şekilde kullanmasından dolayı üniversite öğrencileri seçilmiştir. Dağıtılan anket formlarından eksik doldurulanlar çıkarıldıktan sonra 210 tanesi işleme alınmıştır. Anket üç bölümden oluşmaktadır. Birinci bölümde demografik özellikleri ve sosyal medyayı ne sıklıkta kullandıklarına dair ifadeler, ikinci ve üçüncü bölümde ise sosyal medyada satın alma öncesi ve sonrası Akşehir İİBF öğrencilerinin davranışlarının değerlendirilmesi için sorulan sorular bulunmaktadır. Ankette ikinci ve üçüncü bölümde yer alan ifadeler 5'li Likert ölçeğine göre hazırlanmıştır. Veriler faktör analizi, güvenirlilik analizi ve t-testi kullanılarak değerlendirilmiştir. 10 adet soru bulunan anketin(Sosyal Medyada Satın Alma Öncesi Tüketici Davranışı) güvenilirlik ölçeği 0,87 ve 9 adet soru bulunan anketin (Sosyal Medyada Satın Alma Sonrası Tüketici Davranışı) ise güvenilirlik ölçeği 0,82 olarak belirlenmiştir.

#### Çalışmanın hipotezleri;

H1:Bir ürünü satın almadan önce sosyal medyada araştırma yaparım.

**H2**:Satın alacağım ürün hakkındaki bilgi önceden tanıdığım biri tarafından sosyal medyada paylaşılırsa tavsiyelerine önem veririm.

H3:Satın alacağım ürün hakkında karar verirken medyada popüler olan kullanıcıların tavsiyelerine önem veririm.

H4:Sosyal medya araçlarında beğendiğim işletmelerin ürünlerini satın almayı tercih ederim

H5:Satın aldığım üründen memnun kalırsam bunu sosyal medyada paylaşırım.

H6:Satın aldığım üründen memnun kalmazsam bunu sosyal medyada paylaşırım.

**H7**:Satın aldığım üründen memnun kalmazsam sosyal medyadan tüketicilere ürünü almamalarını tavsiye ederim.

**H8**: Üründen memnun olmadığımı gören işletmenin sosyal medyada benimle iletişime geçmiş olması fikrimi değiştirmeme sebep olabilir.

Beşinci hipotez hariç bütün hipotezler kabul edilmiştir. Tüketiciler satın aldığı üründen memnun değilken bunu bütün platformlarda paylaşırken memnun olduğunda sosyal medyada paylaşmayı tercih etmemektedir.

#### Sonuç ve Tartışma

Öğrenciler günlerinin çoğu zamanını sosyal medyada geçirdiklerinden, sosyal medya araçlarında ürün ve hizmetler ile ilgili alışveriş yapmadan önce araştırma yapmaktadırlar. İşletmeler sosyal medyada, satışını yapmak istedikleri ürünlerin tanıtımına önem vermek zorundadırlar. Çalışmamızda ve İşlek(2010) çalışmasında olduğu gibi öğrencilerin sosyal medya araçlarını kullanım düzeyi ile bu araçlardan etkilenme düzeyi paralellik göstermektedir. Bu sebeple, işletmelerin, kurumların ve tüm kurumsal yapıların sosyal medya ortamında var olması pazarlama faaliyetleri için gereklidir. Öğrencilerin sosyal medya kullanımı cinsiyet gibi demografik faktörlere göre değişmemektedir. Bununla birlikte, sosyal medya kullanımı aylık gelir düzeyine göre anlamlı bir farklılık görülmektedir.

Ürün ya da hizmetlerden memnun olmayan tüketiciler artık şikâyetlerini tüm dünyaya yayılmayı sağlayan sosyal medyada ve çeşitli internet sitelerinde paylaşmaktadırlar. Dolayısıyla işletmelerin kurumsal itibarları zedelenmektedir. (Tuk, 2008: 16-17). Çalışmada "Satın aldığım üründen memnun kalmazsam bunu sosyal medyada paylaşırım" hipotezi kabul edilmiştir. Görüldüğü gibi satın aldığı üründen memnun kalmayan tüketici her platformda bunu paylaşmaktadır. Dolayısıyla işletmeler bu durumu iyi yönetemezlerse mevcut ve potansiyel müşterilerini kaybetme riskiyle karşılaşmaktadırlar. Özellikle aldığı üründen memnun olmayan tüketicilerle iletişime geçmeleri müşteri memnuniyeti açısından önemli olup, işletmelerin sosyal medyada daha olumlu tutum geliştirmesini sağlayacaktır.

#### INTRODUCTION

The appearance of mail service was in 550 BC, in the era of the Persian Empire. A lot has changed in communication since then. Today, internet is not only a tool for spending entertaining time but also it is a tool for gaining information and researching. The communication in television and printed press is one-way while synchronous and two-way communication is possible in internet technology. Although the early aim of internet technologies was communication, businesses today consider social media as a marketing environment, which is different from traditional environment. Through social media, businesses can easily access to a variety of people, particularly to the young. Businesses which understands consumers' expectations and meet them at the right time at the desired quality will be able to survive.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Turkish Language Society defines communication as "transmission of feelings and thoughts to others by using all channels" and it defines the concept of media as communication environment and communication tools (www.tdk.gov.tr, 2017). Social media includes online tools that enable Communication, co-operation and sharing among individuals, communities and businesses through internet and technological facilities (Kırcova & Enginkaya, 2015, 4). According to Kietzman., Kristopher and Silvestr (2011), social media is used to share and discuss various information via mobile technologies. According to another definition, social media is a type of online media with a lot of sharing (Vural & Bat, 2010). Dutton (2004) argues that social media is a name for virtual networks that are used as communication tools bu individuals. Today, social media is used by people to socialize. Thanks to developments particularly in Web 2.0. technology, social networks (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and so on) have come into prominence (Lietsala & Sirkkunan, 2008: 18).

Social media is a type of network system in which users can socialize, share, chat, join social platforms, exchange thoughts and interact online (Köksal & Özdemir, 2013). Media tools such as television, newspaper and radio enable one-way communication; however, social media has enabled individuals to interact mutually, exchange thoughts and form group consciousness as well as share opinions. Individuals share more information by joining in groups that are appropriate for their opinions and get faster and more active information on current issues.

Thanks to technological advancements in Web 2.0. and semantic web, the use of smart devices has risen dramatically. Social media users can now access social media in every setting via their personal smart devices besides computers.

Social media enables people to share their new thoughts and opinions, and socialize. Studies reveal that people spend more time on social media day by day and meet their socialization needs by this way. It is observed that people share their opinions and ideologies through social media. While some social media platforms enable text sharing, others also enable sharing of elements like images or videos (Elbaşı, 2015).

From the perspective of public relations, social media has functions of identification and promotion. Activities like advertisement, announcement, bulletin and so on. that are carried out by businesses on social media channels constitute promotion function; whereas, activities like determination of consumers' requests and expectations, getting feedback and gathering information carried out by businesses on social media constitute identification function. Social media is a setting which enables effective communication opportunity among consumers and businesses (Berkowitz, 2007; Çağlıyan, Işıklar ve Hassan, 2016).

The mostly used social media platforms, which are Facebook, twitter and Instagram, are discussed in this study. Facebook is a social networking site which enables users interact with their friends and share images, videos and opinions. It was started on February 4, 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg for students of Harvard University. On September 11, 2006, it started to be available for every user who is above the age of thirteen and who has an e-mail address. By 2016, the number of active Facebook users reached to 1.9 billion people (www.shiftdelete.net, 2017). Users can form groups for discussion, news, education, organization and brands. While some of these groups are open to everyone, some require admin permission (Durmuş et al., 2010: 62).

Twitter is a social networking site in which users can share their opinions with a limit of 140 characters (Thomases, 2010). Twitter started in 2006 and it started to serve in Turkish in 2011. By 2015, the number of active Twitter users reached to 320 million (www.bbc.com, 2017). From the perspective of businesses, it is important to rapidly respond to a consumer's tweet which is about a complain on a product and solve the consumer's problem and meet the customer satisfaction and thereby make them loyal (Özkaşıkçı, 2012).

Instagram was founded by Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger in 2010. It was bought by Facebook in 2012. It is a social networking website in which people can share images and videos. At the onset, Instagram served for only image sharing; however, they are now webpages where famous people promote products by contracting with businesses. (www.instagram.com, 2017)

Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter are used for marketing besides traditional marketing. Businesses introduce themselves and advertise their products via social media as well as traditional media (television, radio, newspaper). Besides, websites of social media that are previously visited are kept as cookies and they are introduced to people later on different websites (Miller & Lammas, 2010). Today, particularly university students do not prefer mass communication tools such as television and radio.

The advantages of social media are low-cost, fast spread of information, currency, sincere setting, opportunity to get to know audience, availability of assessment and evaluation, direct communication and reliability of information gathered through reference (Eröz & Doğdubay, 2012). The disadvantages of social media are difficulty of control due to fast spread of sharing, negative effects of criticisms about product/service on brands' prestige and quality, lack of real social settings, spread of untrue/false information and news without control (Çağlıyan, Işıklar & Hassan, 2016; Vural & Bat, 2010).

Today, social media sites are significant tools for sending strategic messages to customers and other stakeholders, governing and controlling their consumer behaviors, shaping marketing strategies and shaping the relationship with the consumers through forming mutual relationships (Çağlıyan, Işıklar & Hassan, 2016).

# METHODOLOGY

### Aim, Significance and Scope of The Study

Businesses which meet current and potential customers' requests and needs use social media to promote their products after producing them. The effects of social media on university students with respect to marketing are aimed to be identified in this study. Questionnaire method was chosen to identify opinions of students at Selçuk University Akşehir Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences on marketing through social media. It was aimed to identify the demographic properties, time spent on social media and pre and post purchase behavior on social media of students at Selçuk University Akşehir Faculty of Economics at Selçuk University Akşehir Faculty of Sciences.

### Data Collection Tool and Scales

A questionnaire was administered to students to collect data. The questionnaire is composed of three parts. The first part includes questions about demographic properties and their frequency of use of social media; the second and the third part includes questions to evaluate students' pre and post purchase behaviors on social media. The second and the third part are in 5 point Likert type. Reliability coefficient of the second part (Pre-Purchase Consumer Behavior on Social Media ), which has 10 questions, is .87 and reliability coefficient of the third part (Post-Purchase Consumer Behavior on Social Media ), which has 9 questions, is .82.

# **Population and Sample**

The population of the study consists of the students at Selçuk University Akşehir Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences studying at business department. The reason for choosing university students is that the youth widely use social media. 210 respondents' questionnaire forms were included in the analysis.

# **Limitations of The Study**

The findings of the study include the opinions of the students at Selçuk University Akşehir Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences studying at business department. The study is limited to these students because of the limited time and the availability of students with respect to transport costs.

### FINDINGS

# Analysis of The Data and Hypotheses of The Study

The data obtained were analyzed through SPSS 22.0. The researcher relied on Vural & Bat(2010), Aytan & Telci(2014), İşlek (2012) and Haciefendioğlu(2014) while writing questionnaire questions and forming hypotheses.

### Hypotheses:

H1: I search social media before buying a product.

H2: I value recommendations shared on social media by people I know about the product that I plan to buy.

**H3:** I value recommendations by popular media users when deciding on a product to buy.

H4: I prefer buying the products of businesses that I have liked on social media.

**H5:** If I am satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media.

H6: If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media.

**H7:** If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I recommend the consumers not to buy that product through social media.

**H8**: When a business which has seen that I am not satisfied with the product and got into contact with me, this may change my opinions.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Female	78	37,1	37,1
Male	132	62,9	100,0
Total	210	100,0	

### Table 1. Participants' Gender

According to Table 1, 37% of the participants are female and 63 % are male.

# Table 2. Participants' Grades

Grade	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage	
2.Grade	89	42,4	42,4	
3.Grade	97	46,2	88,6	
4.Grade	24	11,4	100,0	
Total	210	100,0		

According to Table 2, 42.4 % of the participants are second grade, 46.2 % are third grade and 11.4 % are fourth grade students.

CXVIII	Arslan, E. (2017). The Effect of Social Media on Marketing, International Journal Of Eurasia Social
	Sciences, Vol: 8, Issue: 28, pp. (CXI-CXXIII).

Income Level	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1500 TL and less	28	13,3	13,3
1501-2500	89	42,4	55,7
2501-3500	71	33,8	89,5
3501+	22	10,5	100,0
Total	210	100,0	

Table 3 shows that the income of 13.3 % of participants' families is 1500 TL and less, 42.4 % is between 1501-2000 TL, 33.8 % is between 2501-3500 TL and 20.5 % is over 3501 TL.

Social media membership (More than one option can be selected.)	Frequency	Percentage	
Facebook	207	98,6	
Twitter	183	87,1	
Instagram	193	91,9	
Other(LinkedIn, Myspace etc.)	58	27,6	

# Table 4. Participants' Social Media Membership

98.6 % of the participants use Facebook, 87.1 % use Twitter and 91.9 % use Instagram.

#### Table 5. Time Spent On Social Media

How many hours a day do you spend on websites that you have membership?	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage	
None	0	0	0	
Less than 1 hour	5	2,3	2,3	
1-3 hour	90	42,9	45,2	
4-6 hour	95	45,3	90,5	
7-9 hour	20	9,5	100,0	
Total	210	100,0		

Table 5 shows that participants spend mostly1-3 hours and 4-6 hours on the internet. In addition, all the participants definitely check the internet during the day.

# Table 6. Time Spent On Traditional Media

How many hours do you spend on traditional media (television, newspaper, radio etc.)?	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
None	44	21	21
Less than 1 hour	137	65,2	86,2
1-3 hour	29	13,8	100
Total	210	100,0	

According to Table 6, 21 % of the participants do not follow traditional media. 65 % of them spend less than one hour and 13.8 % spend between 1-3 hour a day.

# Table 7. Shopping Via Social Media

	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Yes	177	84,3	84,3
No	33	15,7	100,0
Total	210	100,0	

While 84.3 % of the participants shop via social media, 15.7 % do not shop via social media.

# Table 8. Assessment of Pre and Post Purchase Consumer Behavior on Social Media

	Mean	Standard deviation
Pre-Purchase Consumer Behavior on Social Media		
I search social media before buying a product.	4.41	0.64
I believe that I can find reliable information on social media about the product I plan to buy.	3.39	0.75
If the information about the product I plan to buy is provided by a consumer who is also a social media user, I trust that information.	3.12	1.05
If the information about the product I plan to buy is provided by a seller who is also a social media user, I trust that information.	3.10	0.94
I value recommendations shared on social media by people I know about the product that I plan to buy.	4.39	0.75
I value recommendations by popular media users when deciding on a product to buy.	4.15	0.75
I prefer buying the products of businesses that I have liked on social media.	4.35	0.76
When a business contacts me through social media, this affects me positively to buy the product.	4.27	0.74
Social media sites are appropriate places for consumers to get into contact with businesses.	4.25	0.77
I prefer attending campaigns on social media provided by businesses.	4.25	0.84
Post-Purchase Consumer Behavior on Social Media		
If I am satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media.	2.59	0.57
If I am satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on the pages of the businesses on social media.	2.58	0.52
If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media.	4.75	0.46
If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on the pages of the businesses on social media.	4.73	0.48
If I am satisfied with the product I have bought, I recommend the consumers to buy that product through social media.	2.50	0.66
If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I recommend the consumers not to buy that product through social media.	4.46	0.56
When a business which has seen that I am satisfied with the product recognizes me, it increases my satisfaction.	4.45	0.63
When a business which has seen that I am not satisfied with the product and got into contact with me, this may change my opinions.	4.70	0.55
When a business does not see that I am not satisfied with the product and does not get into contact with me, this increases my dissatisfaction.	4.63	0.48

Chi-square=325.191, p<0.001

As seen in Table 8, the mean for participants who search a product on social media before buying a product is 4.41, participants who believe that s/he can find reliable information on social media about the product s/he plans to buy is 3.39. The question with the highest mean (4.75) is that 'if I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media'.

### Table 9. t-test Results for Assessment of Pre and Post Purchase Consumer Behavior on Social Media

Hypotheses	Mean	St. Deviation	t-test	P value	Result
<b>H1:</b> I search social media before buying a product.	4.41	0.64	7.590	<0.001	Accept
<b>H2:</b> I value recommendations shared on social media by people I know about the product that I plan to buy.	4.39	0.75	6.242	<0.001	Accept
<b>H3:</b> I value recommendations by popular media users when deciding on a product to buy.	4.15	0.75	2.474	0.015	Accept
<b>H4:</b> I prefer buying the products of businesses that I have liked on social media.	4.35	0.76	5.468	<0.001	Accept
<b>H5:</b> If I am satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media.	2.59	0.57	12.269	0.171	Deny
<b>H6:</b> If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media.	4.75	0.46	19.023	<0.001	Accept
<b>H7:</b> If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I recommend the consumers not to buy that product through social media.	4.46	0.56	9.674	<0.001	Accept
<b>H8:</b> When a business which has seen that I am not satisfied with the product and got into contact with me, this may change my opinions.	4.70	0.55	15.045	<0.001	Accept

As seen in Table 9, all hypotheses except for one of them are accepted.

# **CONCLUSION and DISCUSSION**

Students spend most of their time on social media. Students search social media platforms before shopping for products or services. Therefore, it is a must for businesses to promote better the products they want to sell on social media.

As in the study by İşlek (2010), it is found in the study that there is a parallelism the students' level of social media use and the level of being affected by these platforms. Hence, it is necessary for businesses, institutions and institutional structures to be on social media for marketing activities. The students' social media use does not change by demographic factors. However, there is a statistically significant difference between students' pre and post purchase consumer behaviors on social media according to the income level of their families.

The hypothesis 'If I am not satisfied with the product I have bought, I share this on social media' is accepted in the study. As seen, the consumer who is dissatisfied with a product shares this in every platform. Therefore, if businesses cannot manage this case well, they may face the risk of losing the current and potential customers.

If the businesses get into touch with consumers who are particularly dissatisfied with the product through social media, this will make the consumers have more positive attitude towards the business.

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