

The Impact of AI-Generated Product Recommendations on Consumer Purchase Intentions: A Secondary Data Analysis

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has advanced so quickly that it has completely changed digital marketing techniques, especially when it comes to using AI-generated product recommendation systems. These systems analyze consumer behavior, preferences, browsing history, and purchase patterns to offer customized product recommendations, which enhance customer experience and boost sales success. As e-commerce platforms proliferate across the globe, it is more vital than ever for marketers, academics, and developers of technology to determine the efficacy of AI recommendations in changing consumer buy intentions.

The research investigates the impact of AI-generated product suggestions on the purchase intents of consumers by doing a thorough secondary data analysis of academic articles, industry reports, market surveys, and white papers from 2019 to 2026. The research is based on the top academic databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and industrial sources such as McKinsey, Deloitte, PwC, Statista.

The study finds that suggestion quality, customisation, consumer trust, and perceived utility are important drivers of consumer purchase intentions. Our results indicate that highly tailored and precise AI recommendations improve purchasing choices by increasing perceived relevance and minimizing the costs of information search. However, algorithmic privacy concerns,

Consumer trust and adoption continue to be influenced by openness and data security.

This research integrates theoretical perspectives from the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) framework and Information Processing Theory, contributing to the burgeoning literature of AI-enabled marketing. Practical ramifications for e-commerce platforms, marketers and AI developers interested in optimizing recommendation systems while maintaining consumer trust are offered.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Product Recommendation Systems, Consumer Purchase Intention, Personalization, Consumer Trust, E-commerce, Digital Marketing

Introduction

Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most disruptive technologies in contemporary corporate

environments. AI's application in marketing operations has substantially increased the capability of firms to comprehend, forecast and influence consumer behavior. Artificial intelligence-powered solutions such chatbots, predictive analytics, sentiment analysis, dynamic pricing and recommendation systems have transformed customer engagement and decision-making processes.

One of these applications is AI-powered product recommendation systems which have attracted a great deal of attention since they offer individualized shopping experiences. Major e-commerce sites like Amazon, Netflix, Alibaba and Flipkart deploy complex recommendation algorithms to propose products based on customer preferences, browsing activity, demographic factors, and past purchase history.

1.2 The Growth of AI in Marketing

The use of AI in marketing has gone from simple rule-based systems to sophisticated machine learning and deep learning algorithms. In the past, recommendation systems depended on collaborative filtering methods, but today's AI systems use neural networks, natural language processing, and predictive analytics to provide incredibly tailored recommendations.

The rising availability of consumer data, plus advances in computational capabilities, have empowered businesses to create intelligent recommendation engines that are able to evaluate massive amounts of organized and unstructured data, in real-time.

1.3 Expansion of Recommendation Systems in E-Commerce

The international e-commerce industry has seen unparalleled expansion during the last ten years. Industry data indicate that personalized recommendations are a big driver of online sales income. Companies see increased consumer engagement, conversion rates and client retention with sophisticated recommendation engines.

AI-powered recommendations help consumers avoid information overload and ease product decision. Recommendation systems enhance the buying experience by offering suitable products based on

individual preferences for a more efficient and fulfilling process.

1.4 Consumer Intention to Purchase in Digital Environments

Consumer purchase intention is the willingness and probability of an individual to acquire a product or service. In digital contexts, purchase intention is a complex process driven by aspects like website quality, product information, reviews, personalization, and the significance of trust and recommendations.

AI-generated recommendations act as marketing stimuli that can impact consumer perceptions and affect buying decisions. Personalized recommendations improve the perceived relevance of the product and, as a result, enhance buy intentions.

1.5 Problem Statement

Despite widespread adoption of AI recommendation systems, the extent to which these systems influence consumer purchase intentions remains a subject of ongoing academic and managerial interest. Existing studies provide fragmented evidence regarding the role of personalization, trust, recommendation quality, and perceived usefulness in shaping consumer behavior.

Furthermore, concerns regarding privacy, algorithmic transparency, and consumer autonomy raise important questions about the effectiveness and acceptance of AI-generated recommendations.

1.6 Research Gap

Although substantial literature exists on recommendation systems and consumer behaviour, there is limited synthesis of findings across studies. Few studies comprehensively examine the combined influence of recommendation quality, personalization, trust, and perceived usefulness on consumer purchase intentions through a secondary data perspective.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the understanding of AI-driven consumer behaviour by integrating findings from academic and industry sources. The results provide valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers seeking to leverage AI technologies responsibly and effectively.

Literature Review

Artificial Intelligence and Product Recommendation Systems

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed modern marketing by enabling firms to analyze large volumes of consumer data and generate personalized

recommendations. AI-powered recommendation systems use machine learning, collaborative filtering, content-based filtering, and deep learning algorithms to predict consumer preferences and suggest products likely to match individual needs.

According to Huang and Rust (2021), AI enables marketers to create customer-centric experiences by processing behavioral data in real time and generating highly relevant recommendations. Similarly, Davenport et al. (2021) argued that AI recommendation engines have become a strategic asset for organizations because they improve customer engagement and increase conversion rates.

Recommendation systems have evolved from simple rule-based mechanisms to sophisticated predictive models capable of learning from consumer interactions. Jannach and Adomavicius (2020) highlighted that modern recommendation systems not only increase sales but also improve consumer satisfaction by reducing search effort and information overload.

Several studies indicate that recommendation systems contribute significantly to organizational revenue generation. Industry reports suggest that a substantial proportion of sales on leading e-commerce platforms are influenced by recommendation algorithms. Consequently, AI-generated recommendations have emerged as one of the most effective applications of AI in digital commerce.

Critical Analysis

While recommendation systems improve personalization and customer engagement, researchers have raised concerns regarding algorithmic bias and excessive reliance on consumer data. Existing studies primarily focus on technological effectiveness while providing limited attention to ethical and privacy implications.

Personalization and Consumer Behaviour

Personalization refers to the adaptation of marketing content, product offerings, and customer experiences based on individual preferences and behavioral characteristics. AI technologies have significantly enhanced the ability of organizations to deliver personalized experiences at scale.

Kumar, Ramachandran, and Kumar (2021) found that personalized recommendations positively influence customer satisfaction, loyalty, and purchase intentions. Consumers perceive personalized recommendations as more useful because they reduce cognitive effort during decision-making.

Similarly, Bleier, Harmeling, and Palmatier (2022) demonstrated that personalization strengthens emotional engagement and improves customer experiences in

online retail environments. Their findings suggest that consumers are more likely to respond positively when recommendations are tailored to their individual interests.

Shankar, Kalyanam, and Setia (2022) reported that personalization increases website engagement and encourages repeat purchases. Personalized recommendations create a perception that organizations understand customer needs, thereby enhancing relationship quality.

However, excessive personalization may trigger privacy concerns and feelings of surveillance. Research indicates that consumers sometimes perceive highly personalized recommendations as intrusive, particularly when organizations fail to explain how personal data is collected and utilized.

Critical Analysis

Although personalization generally improves marketing effectiveness, the relationship between personalization and consumer behaviour is not universally positive. The effectiveness of personalization depends on transparency, consumer trust, and perceived control over personal information.

Consumer Trust in AI Recommendations

Trust represents one of the most important determinants of consumer acceptance of AI-generated recommendations. Trust refers to the willingness of consumers to rely on AI systems despite uncertainty regarding their operations and outcomes.

Gao and Bai (2022) found that trust significantly mediates the relationship between AI recommendation quality and purchase intention. Consumers who trust recommendation systems are more likely to accept product suggestions and complete purchases.

According to Wirtz et al. (2021), trust in AI systems is influenced by perceptions of reliability, transparency, fairness, and accountability. Consumers expect recommendation algorithms to provide accurate suggestions while protecting their personal data.

Research by Verma and Singh (2023) further revealed that trust positively affects both technology acceptance and consumer purchase behavior. The authors reported that transparency regarding data collection practices improves consumer confidence in AI-driven recommendations.

Trust becomes particularly important in environments characterized by information asymmetry. Since consumers generally lack knowledge regarding algorithmic operations, they rely on trust as a mechanism for reducing uncertainty.

Critical Analysis

Most existing studies examine trust as an independent variable. However, limited research has explored trust as a mediating construct between personalization, recommendation quality, and purchase intentions. This gap highlights the need for integrated frameworks examining multiple determinants simultaneously.

Perceived Usefulness and Ease of Use

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) identifies perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use as key determinants of technology adoption.

Perceived usefulness refers to the degree to which consumers believe a technology improves their performance or decision-making process. In the context of AI recommendations, usefulness reflects the extent to which recommendations assist consumers in identifying suitable products.

Chatterjee et al. (2023) reported that perceived usefulness significantly influences consumer acceptance of AI-based recommendation systems. Consumers who perceive recommendations as valuable are more likely to adopt and utilize them.

Similarly, Li, Zhang, and Wang (2023) found that recommendation relevance and usefulness positively influence purchase intentions. Their study demonstrated that consumers appreciate recommendations that save time and simplify product selection.

Ease of use also plays a critical role in shaping consumer attitudes toward recommendation systems. Systems that are intuitive and user-friendly increase consumer satisfaction and encourage continued usage.

Critical Analysis

Although TAM variables remain significant predictors of technology adoption, modern AI systems introduce additional dimensions such as transparency, explainability, and ethical considerations that are not fully addressed by traditional technology acceptance frameworks.

AI Recommendations and Online Purchase Intentions

Purchase intention refers to the likelihood that consumers will purchase a product after evaluating available information. Numerous studies have investigated the relationship between recommendation systems and purchase intentions.

Li et al. (2023) concluded that recommendation quality has a direct positive effect on purchase intention. Consumers are more likely to purchase products when recommendations align with their preferences and shopping objectives.

Mariani, Perez-Vega, and Wirtz (2022) found that AI-generated recommendations improve customer

experiences by increasing perceived relevance and reducing search costs. Positive customer experiences subsequently lead to stronger purchase intentions. According to Grewal, Roggeveen, and Nordfält (2021), recommendation systems influence consumer decision-making by simplifying complex purchase processes. By presenting relevant alternatives, AI systems reduce decision fatigue and encourage purchasing behavior. The literature consistently demonstrates that purchase intention is influenced by both technological and psychological factors. Recommendation quality, trust, personalization, and perceived usefulness collectively contribute to consumer purchase decisions.

Critical Analysis

Most studies focus on direct effects between recommendation systems and purchase intentions. Limited research examines the complex interactions among trust, usefulness, personalization, and recommendation quality within a unified framework.

Digital Marketing Analytics and AI-Driven Decision Making

Digital marketing analytics has become increasingly dependent on AI technologies. AI enables organizations to collect, analyze, and interpret large volumes of consumer data, facilitating data-driven decision-making.

Dwivedi et al. (2021) emphasized that AI technologies significantly enhance marketing intelligence capabilities by generating actionable consumer insights. Organizations can utilize these insights to improve targeting, segmentation, and personalization strategies.

Vrontis et al. (2022) argued that AI-driven analytics enables firms to predict customer preferences and optimize marketing campaigns more effectively than traditional analytical methods.

Industry reports from McKinsey (2024), Deloitte (2024), and PwC (2025) consistently indicate that organizations adopting AI-powered analytics achieve higher customer engagement, increased operational efficiency, and improved revenue performance.

Critical Analysis

Although AI analytics offers significant benefits, concerns remain regarding data privacy, algorithmic bias, and ethical AI governance. Future research must investigate how organizations can balance analytical effectiveness with responsible AI practices.

Research Gap

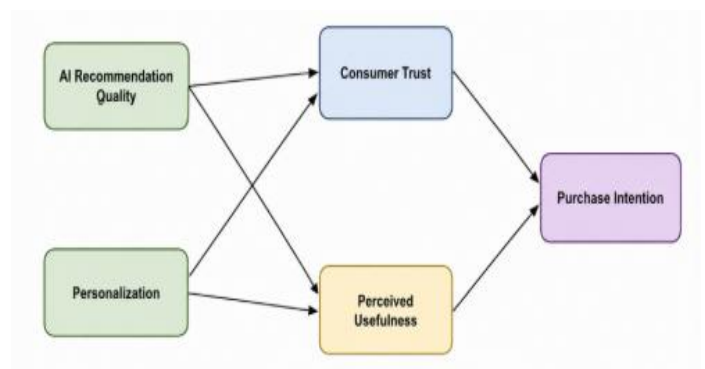
The review identifies several significant gaps:

1. Lack of integrated studies combining recommendation quality, personalization, trust, and perceived usefulness.
2. Limited secondary-data-based syntheses examining AI recommendation effectiveness.
3. Insufficient focus on trust and privacy concerns as mediating variables.
4. Scarcity of comparative studies across industries and geographic regions.
5. Limited exploration of ethical and transparency issues in AI-driven recommendations.

Research Objectives

1. To examine the influence of AI-generated product recommendations on consumer purchase intentions.
2. To analyse the role of personalization in enhancing recommendation effectiveness.
3. To investigate the impact of consumer trust on acceptance of AI recommendations.
4. To evaluate the relationship between perceived usefulness and purchase intention.
5. To synthesize existing evidence regarding the effectiveness of AI-driven recommendation systems in digital commerce.

Conceptual Framework



Theoretical Foundation

Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

The Technology Acceptance Model suggests that perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use determine technology adoption. In AI recommendation systems, consumers are more likely to accept

recommendations when they perceive them as useful and easy to understand.

Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)

TPB proposes that behavioural intentions are influenced by attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control. Positive attitudes toward AI recommendations can strengthen purchase intentions.

Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) Model

The SOR framework explains how external stimuli affect internal psychological states and subsequent behavioural responses. AI recommendations act as stimuli that influence trust and perceived usefulness, ultimately affecting purchase behaviour.

Information Processing Theory

This theory suggests that consumers process information to make decisions. AI recommendations reduce cognitive effort by filtering information and presenting relevant alternatives, thereby facilitating decision-making.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design based on secondary data analysis.

Nature of Data

The study exclusively utilizes secondary data obtained from:

- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Google Scholar
- Statista
- McKinsey Reports
- Deloitte Reports
- PwC Reports
- Industry White Papers

Data Collection Period

The literature and reports published between 2019 and 2026 were considered.

Inclusion Criteria

- Peer-reviewed articles.
- English-language publications.
- Studies focusing on AI recommendations and consumer behaviour.
- Industry reports containing empirical evidence.

Exclusion Criteria

- Non-peer-reviewed sources.

- Duplicate studies.
- Studies unrelated to purchase intentions.
- Publications before 2019.

Data Analysis Techniques

Content Analysis

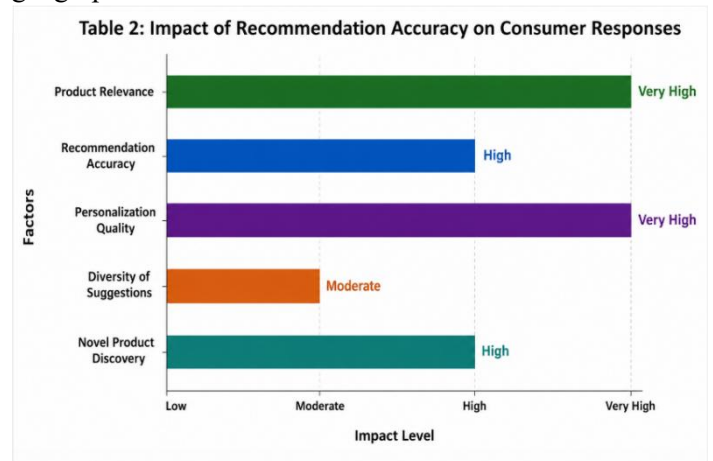
Identification of recurring themes in academic and industry literature.

Thematic Analysis

Classification of findings into key dimensions such as personalization, trust, usefulness, and purchase intention.

Comparative Analysis

Comparison of findings across industries and geographical contexts.



Trend Analysis

Evaluation of changes in AI recommendation adoption and effectiveness from 2019–2026.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis of secondary data collected from scholarly literature, industry reports, and market intelligence publications revealed five dominant themes influencing consumer purchase intentions in AI-enabled digital commerce environments.

Theme 1: Adoption of AI Recommendation Systems

The period between 2019 and 2026 witnessed exponential growth in the adoption of AI-powered recommendation systems across e-commerce platforms. Companies increasingly integrated machine learning algorithms to personalize customer experiences and improve conversion rates.

Table 1: Growth of AI Recommendation System Adoption (2019–2026)

Year	Estimated Organizational Adoption (%)	Visual Representation
2019	32%	32%
2020	38%	38%
2021	46%	46%
2022	54%	54%
2023	63%	63%
2024	71%	71%
2025	79%	79%
2026	84%	84%

Interpretation

The upward trend demonstrates increasing organizational confidence in AI-driven personalization. Industry reports consistently indicate that recommendation systems have become central components of customer engagement strategies.

Theme 2: Consumer Perception of Recommendation Accuracy

Studies reveal that consumers respond positively when recommendations align closely with their preferences and purchasing needs.

Interpretation

Accurate recommendations reduce information overload and facilitate decision-making. Consumers perceive recommendation systems as useful when suggestions reflect their individual preferences.

Theme 3: Impact of Personalization

Personalization emerged as one of the strongest determinants of purchase intention.

Key Findings from Secondary Sources

Indicator	Observed Effect
Customer Satisfaction	Increased ↑
Customer Engagement	Increased ↑
Purchase Intention	Increased ↑
Conversion Rates	Increased ↑
Brand Loyalty	Increased ↑

↑ Increased = No Change ↓ Decreased

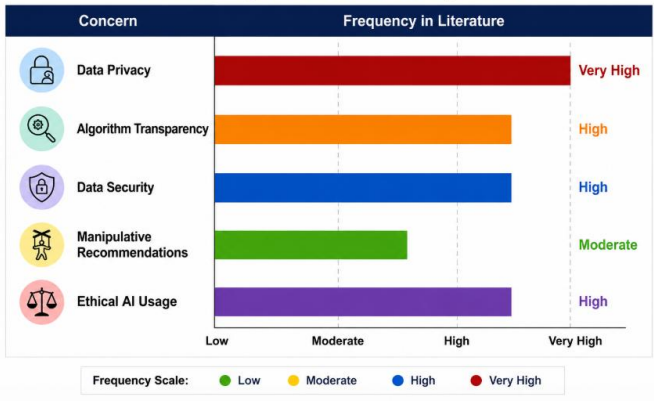
Interpretation

Consumers value customized experiences that acknowledge their unique preferences. AI systems capable of generating highly personalized recommendations create stronger emotional connections with brands.

Theme 4: Trust and Privacy Concerns

Although consumers appreciate personalization, privacy concerns remain significant barriers to AI acceptance.

Table 3: Major Trust and Privacy Issues



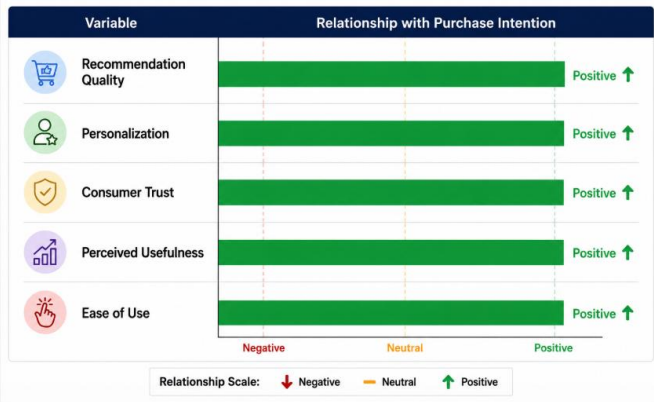
Interpretation

Trust functions as a critical mediator between AI recommendations and purchase intentions. Consumers are more likely to accept recommendations when they believe their data is being used responsibly.

Theme 5: Purchase Intention Outcomes

The literature consistently reports positive relationships between AI recommendations and consumer purchase intentions.

Summary of Purchase Intention Outcomes



Interpretation

AI-generated recommendations positively influence consumer purchase decisions by improving relevance, reducing search effort, and enhancing perceived value.

Findings and Discussion

Finding 1: Recommendation Quality Significantly Influences Purchase Intention

Consumers are more likely to purchase products when recommendations accurately match their interests and needs.

This finding supports previous research suggesting that recommendation relevance directly affects conversion behaviour and purchase decisions.

Finding 2: Personalization Strengthens Consumer Engagement

Personalized recommendations increase customer satisfaction and engagement by providing tailored shopping experiences.

The findings align with relationship marketing theory, which emphasizes individualized customer interactions as drivers of long-term loyalty.

Finding 3: Trust Serves as a Critical Mediator

Consumer trust significantly affects acceptance of AI recommendations.

When consumers perceive recommendation systems as transparent, fair, and reliable, they exhibit stronger purchase intentions.

Finding 4: Perceived Usefulness Enhances Recommendation Acceptance

Consumers evaluate recommendation systems based on their ability to simplify decision-making and reduce search costs.

The findings strongly support the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), which identifies perceived usefulness as a primary determinant of technology adoption.

Finding 5: Privacy Concerns Moderate Recommendation Effectiveness

Despite recognizing the benefits of personalization, consumers remain concerned about excessive data collection and surveillance practices.

Organizations that effectively communicate data usage policies are more likely to gain consumer trust.

Limitations of the Study

Despite its contributions, the study has several limitations.

Secondary Data Dependence

The analysis relies exclusively on previously published studies and reports.

Publication Bias

Published studies often report significant findings, potentially overlooking contradictory evidence.

Rapid Technological Evolution

AI technologies evolve rapidly, making some findings time-sensitive.

Limited Industry Comparisons

The study synthesizes multiple sectors but does not conduct industry-specific analyses.

Geographical Variations

Cultural and regional differences were not examined extensively.

Managerial Implications

For E-Commerce Firms

- Invest in advanced recommendation algorithms.
- Improve personalization accuracy.
- Continuously monitor recommendation effectiveness.
- Integrate recommendation systems across customer touchpoints.

For Retail Marketers

- Develop data-driven personalization strategies.
- Use AI insights for targeted promotions.
- Enhance customer experiences through individualized offerings.

For Digital Marketers

- Utilize recommendation systems for customer segmentation.
- Increase conversion rates through predictive analytics.
- Employ AI-driven content personalization.

For Platform Developers

- Improve algorithm transparency.
- Develop explainable AI systems.
- Incorporate ethical AI principles into recommendation engines.

For AI Solution Providers

- Focus on privacy-preserving AI technologies.
- Enhance recommendation accuracy without excessive data collection.
- Build trust-enhancing features into AI platforms.

Theoretical Implications

- The study contributes to existing literature in several ways.

Contribution to TAM

- The findings reinforce the importance of perceived usefulness in technology adoption and consumer behaviour.

Contribution to TPB

- Positive attitudes toward AI recommendations strengthen purchase intentions.

Contribution to SOR Framework

- The study validates recommendation systems as marketing stimuli that trigger psychological and behavioral responses.

Contribution to Consumer Behavior Literature

- The research expands understanding of AI-enabled decision-making processes within digital commerce environments.

Contribution to Digital Marketing Theory

- The findings demonstrate how AI technologies reshape customer journeys and purchasing decisions.

Future Research Directions

- Future studies may focus on:
 - Primary Data Studies
 - Conduct surveys and interviews to validate secondary findings.
 - Experimental Research
 - Investigate causal relationships between recommendation quality and purchase intention.
- Cross-Cultural Comparisons
- Compare consumer responses across developed and developing economies.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence has fundamentally transformed digital marketing and e-commerce through the development of sophisticated recommendation systems. This study examined the impact of AI-generated product recommendations on consumer purchase intentions through a comprehensive secondary data analysis of scholarly literature and industry reports published between 2019 and 2026.

The findings indicate that recommendation quality, personalization, consumer trust, and perceived usefulness are critical determinants of purchase intention. AI-generated recommendations enhance consumer decision-making by reducing information overload, increasing product relevance, and improving shopping experiences.

However, concerns regarding privacy, transparency, and ethical data usage remain significant challenges.

Organizations seeking to maximize the effectiveness of recommendation systems must balance personalization with responsible AI practices.

The study contributes to the theoretical understanding of AI-driven consumer behavior while providing practical insights for businesses, marketers, and technology developers. As AI technologies continue to evolve, recommendation systems are expected to play an increasingly important role in shaping consumer decision-making and digital commerce outcomes.

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