

ISSN: 2996-5128 (online) | ResearchBib (IF) = 9.918 IMPACT FACTOR Volume-3 | Issue-5 | 2025 Published: |30-05-2025 |

## WAYS TO USE THE OPPORTUNITIES OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15522360

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#### **Annotation**

This article highlights the role of social media in modern business and explores effective ways to utilize its opportunities. The paper analyzes key aspects such as marketing through social platforms, brand promotion, strengthening customer relations, and increasing sales volume. The effectiveness of social media strategies is examined based on both local and international experiences.

#### **Keywords**

digital marketing, social media, business strategy, customer relations, internet marketing.

In today's digital age, social media has become an integral part of human life. It serves not only as a means of personal communication and information exchange, but also as a powerful marketing and communication platform for conducting business. Nowadays, many entrepreneurs—from small enterprises to large corporations—actively use social media to promote their products and services to a wide audience. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, TikTok, and LinkedIn function not only as advertising spaces but also as tools for direct customer interaction, feedback collection, brand image development, and enhancing market competitiveness.

This paper explores the advantages of using social media in business development, strategies for effectively utilizing its potential, and practical ways to ensure efficiency based on real-life examples. In recent years, numerous scientific studies and theoretical investigations have been conducted on the role and potential of social media in the fields of business and marketing. Below is a review of several prominent domestic and international authors and their works in this area.



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Philip Kotler – "Marketing 4.0: Moving from Traditional to Digital" (2016). The renowned American marketing expert Philip Kotler, in his book, analyzes how companies should transition from traditional to digital marketing in the era of digital transformation, with a particular focus on the use of social media. He emphasizes that social media plays a crucial role in deepening customer relationships and enhancing brand loyalty. Andreas Kaplan and Michael Haenlein – "Users of the world, unite! The challenges and opportunities of Social Media" (Business Horizons, 2010).

In this article, the authors provide a theoretical framework for classifying social media, exploring their applications in business and strategic approaches to their use. Special attention is given to brand positioning and viral marketing.

Dave Chaffey - "Digital Marketing: Strategy, Implementation and Practice." Dave Chaffey offers a comprehensive overview of digital marketing, including strategies for social media platforms, content marketing, and methods for measuring ROI (Return on Investment). His work is considered a key resource in the practical application of digital tools in business.

T.X. Yoldoshev – "Fundamentals of Marketing."This textbook discusses marketing strategies, consumer relations, and modern marketing tools within the context of Uzbekistan. In its latest editions, the role of social media in business has also been addressed, emphasizing its growing importance in local market conditions. D.T. Qurbonov – "Conducting Business in the Context of the Digital Economy" (2022).

In his work, Qurbonov analyzes the opportunities provided by digital tools—including social media—for business entities, using Uzbekistan as a case study. He explores how local entrepreneurs apply social media strategies and examines their impact on business performance. B. Teshaboyev et al. – "Internet Marketing" (Study Guide).

This guidebook covers various aspects of internet marketing, including advertising through social networks, identifying target audiences, and analyzing user behavior. It serves as a practical manual for businesses seeking to engage in digital marketing more effectively.

In today's digital economy, social media has become a critical strategic tool for marketing and business operations. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Telegram, and LinkedIn are not only used for advertising, but also for building brand loyalty, maintaining ongoing customer communication, and collecting analytical data. Numerous studies indicate that companies with effective social media strategies gain a competitive advantage in the market. Social media platforms allow businesses to communicate with customers in real-time. Kaplan

# SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS PUBLISHING CENTRE OF AMERICA

#### **AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION AND LEARNING**

ISSN: 2996-5128 (online) | ResearchBib (IF) = 9.918 IMPACT FACTOR Volume-3 | Issue-5 | 2025 Published: |30-05-2025 |

and Haenlein (2010) describe social media as a tool based on direct and two-way interaction between users and businesses. This enables companies to quickly identify customer needs and offer appropriate services accordingly. Kotler (2016), in his book Marketing 4.0, highlights social media as one of the most effective means for viral marketing, content marketing, and enhancing customer loyalty. Visual content such as images, videos, and stories fosters trust and emotional connection with the product among users.

In Uzbekistan, a number of small and medium-sized enterprises are actively expanding their customer base through platforms like Instagram and Telegram. Qurbonov (2022), in his research, provides statistical evidence that the growth in online sales is strongly influenced by the use of social media.

Table-1
The role of social media in business: challenges and solutions

N	Direction	Role in Business	Challenges	Solutions
1	Marketing	Delivering products and	Unclear targeting of the	Conduct audience analysis
	Advertising	es to a wide audience	ded audience	AI-based tools
		lly		
2	Brand	Building and	Low content quality;	Utilize professional SMM
	otion	gthening brand image	n and language errors	alists
3	Customer	Real-time response;	Delayed responses or	Introduce chatbots and
	action	rstanding customer needs	of automated	ment 24/7 customer response
			nunication	ms
4	Sales	Selling directly via social	Lack of integration with	Implement Instagram Shop,
	ss	a or through links	platforms	ram bot, Click/Payme
				rations
5	Analytics	Understanding customer	Not using analytical	Use Google Analytics, Meta
	Monitoring	vior and content		less Suite, Telegram Stats, and
		iveness		ar tools
6	Feedback	Evaluating service	Ignoring or improperly	Be open and constructive
	Reputation	ty through user comments	ling negative feedback	rd customer opinions
7	Competitor	Tracking competitor	Lack of awareness	Conduct automatic profiling
	toring	ties and identifying	competitors' updates	nonitoring of competitors
		s		

Social media today plays a strategically important role in business development. It enables the rapid delivery of products and services to the public, the formation of brand image, the establishment of continuous communication with customers, the stimulation of sales, the monitoring of analytical results, and the evaluation of competitors' activities. As shown in the table, this process also involves a number of challenges, including improper audience targeting, low-quality content, delayed responses to inquiries, ignoring negative feedback, and



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failure to utilize analytical tools. To address these issues, it is essential to implement modern technological solutions such as AI-based analytics, chatbots, content management systems, analytical platforms, and open communication channels with customers. Thus, by managing social media effectively and using it strategically, businesses can not only increase their sales volume but also enhance their competitiveness. This, in turn, lays the foundation for sustainable and continuous business growth.

Table-2 **Social media strategy: Uzbekistan and International Practices** 

N	Key Direction	Uzbekistan's Approach	International Approach
	Target Audience tification		Audience segmentation is done in-depth g AI and analytical tools
	Platform tion	Mainly uses Telegram, gram, Facebook	Platforms are selected based on target TikTok, YouTube Shorts, LinkedIn, lit)
	- 3	rtising posts, limited video	High-quality visuals and video content, telling and emotional marketing are non
4		Companies may respond late to mer inquiries	24/7 support via chatbots, rapid onse systems, and active feedback agement
	Advertising egy	Mostly simple posts or reliance fluencer marketing	Targeted (personalized) ads, rketing, A/B testing, and campaign ning are used
	Performance ics & Analytics	Results are measured by likes reach; deep analysis is rarely ucted	KPIs (ROI, conversion rate, CTR, etc.) noroughly analyzed
	Increasing Brand lty	•	Content creates brand values; focus on nunity building and user engagement
	Staff ification	Most small businesses lack ed SMM professionals	Professional SMM and analytics teams mployed

In Uzbekistan, social media strategy is still in a developing stage, often targeting a broad audience and implemented with limited resources. In contrast, international practices are characterized by deep analysis, data-driven decision-making, and high levels of user engagement. In developed countries, building an active community around a brand and continuously delivering value are considered the core elements of a successful strategy. An effective social media strategy is typically based on several key pillars: identifying the target audience, creating a content plan, analyzing and measuring performance (such as reach, engagement, and conversion), and maintaining interactive communication with customers.



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Social media has become an essential tool in modern business operations. Through these platforms, small and medium-sized enterprises can promote their products cost-effectively, rapidly, and efficiently; expand their customer base; and enhance their brand value. Correct and strategic use of these tools—through indepth analysis and a professional approach—is the key to success. In today's digital era, social media is no longer an optional tool but a strategically vital component of business practice. It allows companies to quickly deliver products and services to a wide audience, build a strong brand image, maintain direct and interactive communication with customers, increase sales volumes, and strengthen competitiveness in the market.

Analyses show that for businesses to use social media effectively, they must identify a clearly defined target audience, create high-quality and engaging content, pay attention to user feedback, analyze performance metrics, and utilize modern tools such as chatbots, SMM (Social Media Marketing), and analytics platforms. While positive developments are being observed in Uzbekistan, international practices in this field are more deeply systematized. Therefore, it is crucial for local entrepreneurs to learn from foreign strategic approaches and adapt them to the national context. In conclusion, social media has become a powerful driver of business growth. Managing it consciously, strategically, and professionally can be a decisive factor in the successful operation of any enterprise.

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ISSN: 2996-5128 (online) | ResearchBib (IF) = 9.918 IMPACT FACTOR Volume-3 | Issue-5 | 2025 Published: |30-05-2025 |

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