
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Strategic Brand Positioning in a Saturated Digital Landscape

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| ABSTRACT

In the current and, at the same time, over-crowded digital environment, having a brand position is not the luxury anymore; it is a key to visibility, differentiation, and sustainability. This article endeavors to discuss brand positioning strategy in a saturated digital market, presenting the contribution of holistic brand management, content production, social medial virality, and data-based marketing resources. Based on case studies and the latest understanding of academic literature, the paper shows how to make the brands flexible in response to changes in consumer behavior, platform competition, and technological disruption. The primary focus is given to the fact that individualization, entrepreneur branding strategy, and the application of analytics to create unique market positioning should be high. Most of the results imply that brand positioning agility, coherence, and multi-channelled foundations are the keys to a successful digital brand positioning.

| KEYWORDS

Strategic brand positioning, Digital branding, Market saturation, Consumer behavior, Social media marketing, Content creation, Brand differentiation.

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

Digital marketing space had seen an unprecedented shift in the last few years, with the faster growth in technological changes, consumer empowerment and the influx of innovations in business model falling under the digital-first parameter. The entry barriers are low, and the presence of the internet extends to the marketplace and every online channel, which means that businesses of all sizes are now competing on the same platform, an aspect that has been termed as saturated digital marketplace by market experts. This congestion has worsened the battle of the consumer attention, so that brands have to fight more based on being visible, relevant, and touching the emotions (Islami, Rahyuni, & Rukayyah, 2024).

Strategic brand positioning which was considered as a logos and taglines process has become a complex science. Being unique in a digital age where virtually everything is floodgated with the same products, services and messages is not an option anymore. Companies which do not build the clear brand image would be ignored and even forgotten. According to Salam et al. (2025), the contemporary consumer has a continuous challenge of marketing given directly to them, thereby forcing the brands to make clear, consistent, and precise messages, which resonate with the consumer and establish an honest relationship with them.

Market Indicator	Saturation	Description	Brand Strategy Implication
High volume of competitors		Hundreds of brands offering similar products/services	Need for unique brand voice and differentiation (Islami et al., 2024)
Declining organic reach on platforms		Algorithm-driven visibility restricts unpaid exposure	Requires content strategy and paid media planning (Suzano, 2024)
Increased consumer skepticism		Overexposure to ads causes distrust	Emphasis on authenticity and transparency (Serrano et al., 2024)
Platform fatigue among users		Audience overwhelmed by repetitive messaging	Adaptive messaging and fresh formats (Kim & Kim, 2024)
Shift to value-driven purchasing		Consumers favor brands aligned with personal beliefs	Importance of emotional and ethical branding (Shah et al., 2024)

2. Understanding Brand Positioning in the Digital Era

2.1 Definition and evolution of brand positioning in online environments:

Brand positioning has entered a new metamorphosis in the current hyperconnected and algorithm-driven world. Brand positioning was traditionally based in a physical presence in markets and in one-dimensional messaging, but in the digital age has become multi-platform, dynamically affected by interaction and feedback loops of consumers and algorithms that show presence.

Brand positioning is how a brand is understood in the minds of its target customers the positioning about what the brand is representing, what is the difference it has over its competitors and also the emotional or functional value it is offering. In the digital environment, this view is correlated by the behavior of a brand on websites, social sites, search engines, online advertisement, and even AI generated content (Serrano et al., 2024). Brands can no longer explicitly and directly assert their value; they have to be able to declare and live the value in an increasingly complex and growing digital environment that is becoming more fractured and accelerated.

2.2 The Shift from Traditional to Digital Channels:

One of the most substantial paradigm shifts of modern marketing is the shift towards a digital set of branding channels as opposed to historical traditional ones. At a time when brands depended so much on print media, television and physical events as means of reaching out to people, with the emergence of the digital platforms, the way brands reach out to people, interact with them and position themselves in the market has taken a new dimension.

Conventional methods provided few points of feedback, one direction communication and unyielding campaign framework. On the contrary, electronic media is instant, interactive, and flexible. Such initiatives as social media and influencer collaborations, real-time content marketing, and ad-targeting based on data created an environment where brands have to be everywhere and quickly and need to react in real-time.

The Evolution of Brand Positioning



3. Key Challenges in a Saturated Digital Landscape

3.1 Market Overcrowding and Limited Consumer Attention:

The digital space, with its overcrowding, is about numbers and even more so about noise. People are being exposed to the endless products at the point of sale, advertisements, promotion material, sponsored influencer and product placement, pop-up ads and automated messaging. This saturation, as Shah et al. (2024) say, reduces retention and brand recall significantly as users build filtering mechanisms of paying attention in select ways learning to use subconscious filters to choose what to get and what to avoid.

Such environment dictates that the best product might be neglected provided that the brand does not convey attention within few seconds of discussion. Price, feature or quality, which used to be traditional selling points, are not effective enough unless they are packaged around brand story that is instantly appealing. The consumers are no longer merely comparing the products, but also the digital experience, story-telling, and the emotional distinctiveness with which a brand expresses itself.

3.2 Difficulty in Building Loyalty in Competitive Categories:

Customer loyalty is one of the eternal and the most problematic issues of contemporary brands especially in saturated digital markets. It is also challenging to capture the attention of consumers, but it is even more challenging to maintain it, and to then translate it into repeat interactions or sales. The variety of options available, the simple decision to change brands, and continual exposure to competitive offers have furthermore diminished the traditional loyalty patterns dramatically.

Potential deterioration of digital-first categories loyalty is associated with the following factors:

- I. **Low Switching Cost:** The consumers are able to do comparisons of products, prices and reviews within a few seconds and it thus becomes easy to switch one brand with another which has a better perceived value.
- II. **Excessive Loyalty Programs:** Excessive use of buy-more-get-more incentives results in a commoditized loyalty experience that does not generate any differentiation (Liu & Yang, 2009).

- III. **Brand Parity Perception:** In extremely competitive niches, the customers have a tendency to believe that the differences between the brands are almost insignificant in service and price terms, thus devaluing the motive to continue being a loyal consumer.
- IV. **Transactional Relationships:** The difference between many brands is that they are transactional rather than constructive building of community, stories or even an emotional connection capable of achieving loyalty.

3.3 Algorithm-Driven Visibility Limitations on Platforms

Back in the early years of digital marketing, gaining an audience on the internet has been a fairly simple process of publishing, and people would read. In the present day, visibility mostly resides under the control of algorithms wherein content pushed on channels through Instagram, Tik Tok, Facebook, YouTube, and even LinkedIn are left to the whims of constantly changing algorithms whether the human input of the brand is there or not.

The brand positioning issue arising with this algorithmic gatekeeping is a critical one in that visibility is no longer ensured, even when the content in question is of a high quality or of a quality to be regarded as engaging. The platforms rank the posts according to the history of engagement, user behaviors, advertisement spend, types of posts, and trending formats. As a result, most brands are not able to bypass the algorithmic feed only by paying to reach their audience or by aligning the content they share to the exact preferences of the platform (Lefebvre-Reghay, 2023).

Since the advent of algorithms, digital editing has become the role of algorithms who choose what to show and what to bury, and this is usually not in favor of emerging or under-resourced brands (Harliantara et al., 2025). This not only brings about a small organic reach, but also distorts the strategic consistency, as brands are likely to change the tone, language and format of their messages in order to achieve algorithms than to actually connect to people on a natural level.

Table 2: Effects of Platform Algorithms on Brand Visibility and Strategy

Algorithmic Factor	Impact on Brand Visibility	Strategic Implication for Brands
Engagement-based prioritization	Content is only shown if it quickly gains likes, shares, or comments	Brands must design attention-grabbing, interactive content (Harliantara et al., 2025)
Format bias (e.g., short videos over images)	Certain content types are favored regardless of brand objectives	Requires adapting format without compromising brand identity
Pay-to-play model	Organic content is de-prioritized; sponsored posts gain more visibility	Necessitates investment in targeted advertising (Lefebvre-Reghay, 2023)
Platform algorithm changes	Sudden shifts in what content is shown can disrupt brand strategies	Demands agility and continuous analytics monitoring
Audience segmentation algorithms	Not all followers see all posts; reach is fragmented	Requires deeper personalization and diversified distribution

4. Strategic Approaches to Digital Brand Positioning

4.1 Subsection: Integrated Brand Management:

In the current environment in which digital is a crowded marketplace, it is no longer a brand strength that can rely on secluded campaigns or occasional promotions, but one that is recognizable, consistent, coherent, and clear throughout all consumer interactions. Integrated brand management is a working philosophy that guarantees that

every element of the brand, and especially its messaging, tone, imagery and values are aligned on all channels, formats, and interactions.

Integrated brand management is, in the fundamental sense, not the same as designing consistency. It is a strategic field whereby each communication is done to speak the core identity of the brand no matter what the channel, the audience, or the situation. The brand needs to have one voice whether it is in the form of a tweet or a newsletter, on a banner of a website or in a customer support item. This congruence establishes recognition, strengthens trustworthiness, and facilitates reliability; all important elements in a world where consumers are continuously faced with messages that are contradictory between each other due to the number of competitors.

4.2 Content Creation & Digital Storytelling

4.2.1 Personalization and Value-Driven Messaging:

In a digital world inundated with communication, content quality and relevance has become key differentiators when it comes to brand storytelling. Content can no longer be defined as a tool of communication--it is a tool of connection. Those brands that succeed in content creation and storytelling are the ones who go beyond the generic messages to provide the highly personalized value-creating stories based on the personal interests, identities and aspirations of their viewers.

Point of customization is no longer new and it is about personalization. Premium analytics and behavioral intelligence help a brand to have a one-to-one communication, where the demographics, shopping behavior and online behavioral patterns can become profiles. Such exactness enables businesses to develop material that shows it is personally targeted, current, and relevant to people rather than general categories. Customized personal values additionally increase interaction and also emotional connection that makes a feeling that the brand recognizes the consumer (Mou & Faruk, 2024).

4.3 Use of Social Media & Viral Techniques

4.3.1 Leveraging Memes, Reels, and Shareable Content:

Social media platforms in the current era of digital economy have become the front line of brand engagement with its ability to provide an opportunity in real time to reach, engage and influence audiences like no other brand has been able to do. This is an area where a brand can leverage or excel more only when it is capable of producing a kind of content that is relevant, timely as well as inherently shareable. This has led to emergence of a new generation of brand placement strategies focusing on virality, cultural involvement, and imaginative informality.

Meme marketing is at the core of these strategies, which consists of applying a particular sense of humor, relatability, and cultural commentary in order to humanize the brand and identify with the consumers in the digital environment (Kim & Kim, 2024). In fact, memes challenge conventional ideas about marketing because they include reliance upon language used within the community, as well as internal jokes and speedy cultural referencing. When applied properly, they immediately stimulate emotional response and contribute to organic reach since they promote likes, comments, and shares.

4.4 SEO, Web Analytics, and Platform Optimization

4.4.1 Data-Backed Positioning Through Digital Tools:

Data-driven brand positioning must be based in a time when virtual existence controls market reach and brand positioning must be strategic enough that it cannot simply be based on a gut feeling. The application of Search Engine Optimization (SEO), web analytics, and platform specific optimization tools have risen to be important modalities in the branding eco system. Not only are these digital tools used to extend the reach of a brand, but they also adjust amidst messaging by narrowing in on where to message and place to address audience expressions of how they search, interact, and convert in reality.

Brand discoverability is anchored on the use of SEO. It means that a brand can be seen high among products that consumers request about the specific terms, solution, or category. When proper work is done on modifying the

structures of the web, metadata, keywords and relevance of content, brands would be in a position to become authoritative voices in their niche. This enhances organic exposure and creates trustworthiness at exactly the point when an interested customer shows their activity (Mou, Hossain, & Siddiqui, 2022).

4.5 Consumer Behavior and Brand Adaptability

4.5.1 The Rise of Local Brand Preference and Boycotting of Imports:

Perhaps one of the strongest under-currents in the current digital economy is not only the nature of consumer usage of brands and products but also the manner in which consumers orientate themselves to one brand over another. Over the past years, more consumers have increasingly started to focus on local brands within their country and openly shun imported or foreign brands. This cultural behavioral pattern is the result of the influence of the cultural identity, economic nationalism, and social awareness impacts, which is dramatically changing the brand positioning strategies.

Customers can no longer be seen at the receiving end of international advertisement. They have more knowledge, are more selective and more driven by ethical, political and economic factors. Shah et al. (2024) report that a perceptible change has taken place in the markets where consumers are actively boycotting the purchase of imported brands in favor of local ones and generally due to their perception that they are being exploited, to political wars, or that they need to spend their money to support the national economy.

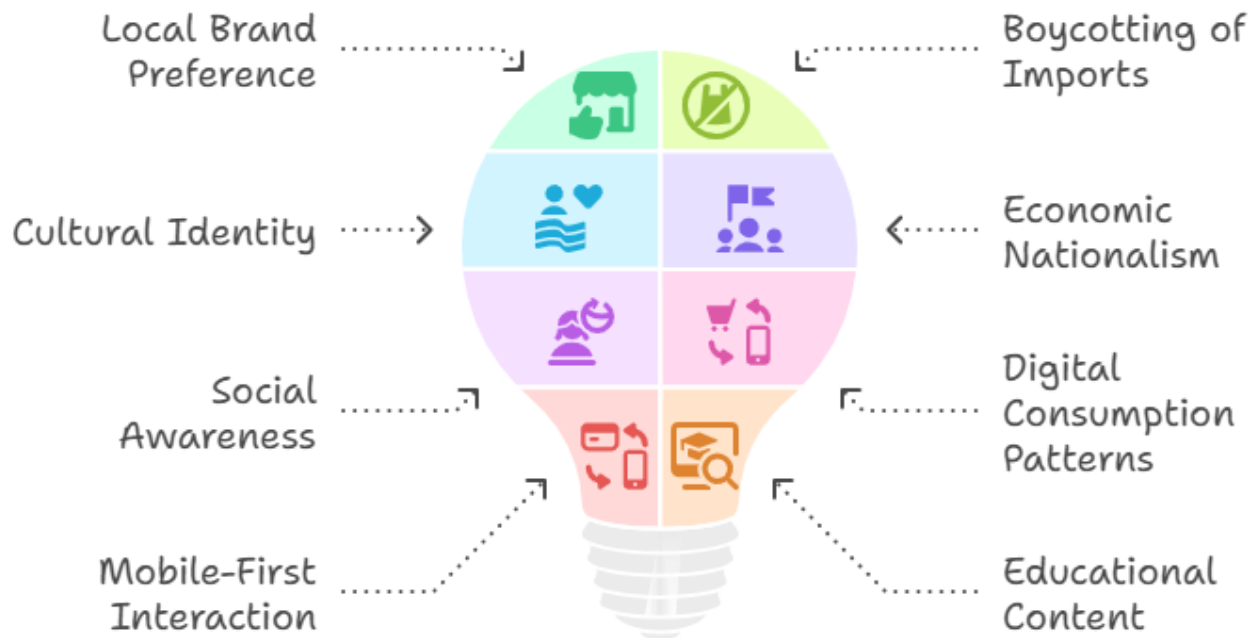
4.6 Adapting to Shifting Digital Consumption Patterns:

Consumer behavior as they access and enact their consumption of digital material and as they arrive to purchase decisions is consistently in a state of flux, driven by platform innovation, by generational behavior, and by shifting expectations of convenience and relevance. In this dynamic environment, flexibility is no longer a valued strategic asset; it is a matter of survival to the brands. The inability to develop according to the emergence of new consumption habits may lead to the loss of relevance, loss of the trust, and missed opportunities.

A major change is the shift to shorter and more immersive experiences in the content. Consumers today are bombarded with content on all forms of media and they have adjusted to this by having shorter attention spans. Brand positioning will have to react to a fragmented intake of information through its audience in micro-videos, ephemeral stories, interactive polls, and AI-powered feeds as Serrano et al. (2024) elaborates. Such formats require brands to convey their value propositions in short time, with a simple and creative manner, which in many cases is within a few seconds.

The other characteristic trend is the increasing inclination to mobile-first interaction and live accessibility. Consumers have been on the hunt to have frictionless digital interactions that fit in their devices, time-limited lifestyles, and social surroundings. That has compelled brands to reconsider their message delivery methods--agile platforms, responsive design and instant communication channels are becoming more popular than the old, fixed, one-size fits all marketing.

Navigating Consumer Behavior in the Digital Age



5. Case Highlights and Contemporary Examples

5.1 The SKIMS Brand Evolution and AI Integration:

SKIMS is one of the few brands with such high strategic versatility and their digital-first structure in the busy online fashion and lifestyle market. Hailing initially as a shapewear brand, SKIMS is now a multi-category apparel wholesaler reinventing the concept of inclusivity, changing the way of expression of a possible brand, and applying technology to customize consumer experiences.

Creating a connection between the brand identity and the cultural moments and the digital platform behaviors is made exemplary by the transformation of SKIMS. Whether in its initial stance that revolves around body positivity and its wide range of sizing or in its current push to ensure that it includes fashion-tech features, the brand has always lasted through. In the relevance game, (where emotions reign), it has always managed to stay in the game through innovations.

One of the factors that made SKIMS thrive this way and continue rising has been its adoption of AI-fueled tools to personalize and improve interactions with consumers. Zhang (2024) asserts that SKIMS will process shopping trends using sophisticated AI to present recommendations as soon as the user browses. This adds to the user experience and increases the emotional bond between the consumer and the brand and this is particularly true in the current world where personalization in digital means is no longer a pleasant surprise, but a necessity.

5.2 Growth of Demi-Fine Jewelry through Social Media Branding:

Demi-fine jewelry is one of the fastest growing segments of the increasingly large online luxury jewelry market, which owes its success at least in part to strategic social media branding. This category which sits in between costume and fine jewelry has been embraced by younger style-seeking shoppers and present authenticity, affordability of luxury, and digital narrative content to them.

Compared to traditional luxury brands that have had long and indulgent heritage and whose status has been reliant on exclusivity, quite a few demi-fine jewelry start-ups have developed their identity in a totally new way unaided by social-first approaches. James and Dutta (2025) explain that the bloom of this industry is explained by the fact that the brands can create desirable but down-to-earth stories with the help of visual storytelling, collaborations with influencers, and micro-targeted marketing campaigns.

5.3 Hyatt Hotel's Positioning Success in a Competitive Service Sector:

The hospitality industry is undoubtedly very mature, with customer loyalty becoming more oriented toward a hypothesis that the digital experiences and custom approach meet the need of the more demanding customers, and Hyatt hotels have created a very specific brand profile where luxury, differentiation, and responsiveness to the culture came into play. As opposed to brands which base their exclusive positioning on either the traditional prestige or the mass-market ability, the success of the Hyatt brand is grounded in the capacity to adjust its location in various markets around the world but remain always consistent in the brand promise.

Song et al. (2025) states that tailored services, localized content, and innovation that are guest-centric are effective in ensuring that Hyatt transforms itself into a digitally agile and experience-focused brand. The loyalty World of Hyatt is one of its strategies, through which the company uses the data analytics to personalize recommendations, increase loyalty benefits, and improve user experiences on the Internet and in the real world.

On the digital front, Hyatt has implemented the strategy of being content-driven, which emphasizes emotional connection, inclusions, and hospitality in all touchpoints. The brand offers appealing social media narratives, immersive video, and real-time engagement with the guests, encouraging them to determine the brand not only as a destination to live but as an access point to the experiences that matter. The entire story-led strategy appeals tremendously to the digital-empowered travellers that are no longer preoccupied only with services, but their own transformation, and cultural immersion.

6. Opportunities in the New Digital Branding Paradigm

6.1 Leveraging Corporate Communication in a Fragmented Media Space:

The increasingly fast-paced digital economy can introduce more issues than it can solve, but also create new possibilities when it comes to the strategic brand development, especially, when it comes to communication between organizations and staying relevant in a balkanized media environment. With the endless amount of digital outlets and content delivery variations available, and with the attention span to match, the old paradigms of corporate communication have been washed away in favour of fluid, agile and multi-directional tactics that enable brands to talk to their audiences, rather than simply speak at them.

The core of such transformation is a strategic importance of honest corporate communication which is layout on the level of consumers on various platforms. The goal of successful companies is not to create monolithic brand statements or even to message top-to-down, but to develop platform-specific storytelling, driven by what is expected or the tone and the values of each digital context. Suzano (2024) states that the fact that media is no longer a dilutant of brand pull is associated with its rental by hyper-targeted communications as far as media fragmentation is concerned.

Corporate communicators in this new paradigm are no longer just providing public relations, they are giving a living expression of value and community service and constructed response to social need. By being a brand that embraces this change, it will be viewed as a thought-leading brand, ethical steward and cultural ally, which is

becoming increasingly more relevant in a consumer experience where transparency, accountability and purpose driven brand messaging is demanded by the culture.

6.2 Capitalizing on Startup Agility and the Entrepreneurial Mindset:

Agility and innovation are inherent parts of the startup culture and one of the distinguishing features of marketing in the digitally saturated branding field. In contrast to legacy corporations that are most of the time facing the issue of structural rigidity, startups can pivot, experiment, and implement quickly, which means that the latter are best placed to succeed in a highly competitive digital market.

As found by Pangilinan et al. (2025), startups and entrepreneurial mindset as a key feature of modern brands determining the way in which brand responds to the change in consumers preferences and trends at the platform levels. As part of starting up, firms are likely to engage in a test and learn strategy of branding one that is characterized by launching campaigns fast, ascertaining performance measurements and fine-tuning their positioning on the basis of real time response. This enables them to capture the gaps that exist in the market and consumer interests, which, other competitors would take time to amass resources to exploit.

6.3 Educating Customers Through Brand-Aligned Media:

Customer education is now a major branding activity in the attention-fractured digital economy particularly as a brand building tool among companies wishing to establish authority, trust and long-term loyalty. The brands have an opportunity to differentiate themselves as brands that not only sell but ones who can be trusted, and who provide more than just transactional communication but those who can be considered cultural contributors.

When brand values and identity are combined strategically with brand education, knowledge transfer alone is not the only value that is created through brand education--relevance is built. It could be in the form of pieces of thought leadership, educational materials, branded podcasts, and experiences, which allow consumers to get to know not only about the product, but also about the philosophy and product goal. Harliantara et al. (2025) found that the best digital branding strategies in the current climate also include value-driven learning as an underlying story, which allows audiences to engage and memorize all the better.

Such positioning of education creates consumer empowerment. Brands do not aim to win people over with persuasive methods but provide resources and knowledge to allow users to make an informed decision. This establishes mutual confidence- one of the biggest assets in a time when lies and questioning of doing business with corporations is the order of the day. What is more, in most cases, this kind of content would benefit in an algorithmic way, being something platforms appreciate when promoting time-on-page, shares, and utility-driven interactions.

7. Conclusion

The global digital environment is an overcrowded, fast-paced and highly dynamic consumer environment, which is why strategic brand positioning is no longer a choice, but a life or death decision. The media fragmentation, the increase in consumer demands and the proliferation of nimble competitors require that brands are not only visible but resonant in a significant way. This requires a deliberate branding approach- one which is not based on guessing or is customer based and integrated in its operations to all touchpoints.

As discussed in this article, the best brands today use dynamic and responsive strategies that change similar to how the audience piggybacks and how the platform works. They combine storytelling, individualization, education and fluency in culture to develop the value that exists beyond product offerings. Noteworthy, these brands do not rely on analytics and digital tools to measure performance but to enhance their positioning and streamline content delivery, and, moreover, create enduring resonance.

Stress that modern branding should assume such power as coherence within the company, as well as among platforms. In the meantime, highlights the increasing significance of dynamic brand architecture in which

responsiveness and flexibility develop the long-term relevance. Collectively, each of those insights supports the notion that brand clarity, authenticity and agility are in the era of digital clutter the pillars of sustainable differentiation. Since the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in all terms of the digital economy, the future of brand positioning will be determined by the capacity of a brand to be resilient, flexible, and humanized in an AI-augmented marketplace. AI is reshaping the instruments and the pace of brand strategy, via in-program creation and client analysis, on-demand customization and past-the-scene trend forecasting.

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