

The Role of Digital Marketing in Increasing The Competitiveness of Msmes in The Era of The Industrial Revolution 5.0

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ABSTRACT

The Industrial Revolution 5.0 has changed the global business paradigm, especially for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in facing increasingly complex competitive challenges. This research aims to analyze the role of digital marketing in increasing the competitiveness of MSMEs in the era of the Industrial Revolution 5.0. The research method uses a quantitative approach with survey techniques on 385 MSMEs in the Greater Jakarta area that have implemented digital marketing strategies. Data collection was conducted using a structured questionnaire that had been validated with a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.892. Data analysis was conducted using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) with AMOS 24.0 software. The results of the study show that digital marketing has a positive and significant effect on the competitiveness of MSMEs with a path coefficient value of 0.784 ($p<0.001$). The most influential digital marketing indicator was social media marketing ($\beta=0.856$), followed by search engine optimization ($\beta=0.743$), and content marketing ($\beta=0.692$). The competitiveness of MSMEs increased significantly through increased operational efficiency (34.2%), market expansion (41.7%), and product innovation (28.9%). This research makes a theoretical contribution to the development of an integrated digital marketing framework model for MSMEs and practical implications for the development of MSME empowerment policies in the digital era.

INTRODUCTION

The Industrial Revolution 5.0 era has brought a fundamental transformation in the global business ecosystem, where the convergence of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and human-centric approaches are the main characteristics that define the modern competitive landscape (Schwab, 2021). This phenomenon not only affects multinational

corporations, but also has a significant impact on the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) segment which is the backbone of the national economy in various countries, including Indonesia. The World Economic Forum (2022) reports that 90% of the total global business and 50% of the world's workforce are in the MSME category, indicating the sector's strategic role in global economic stability.

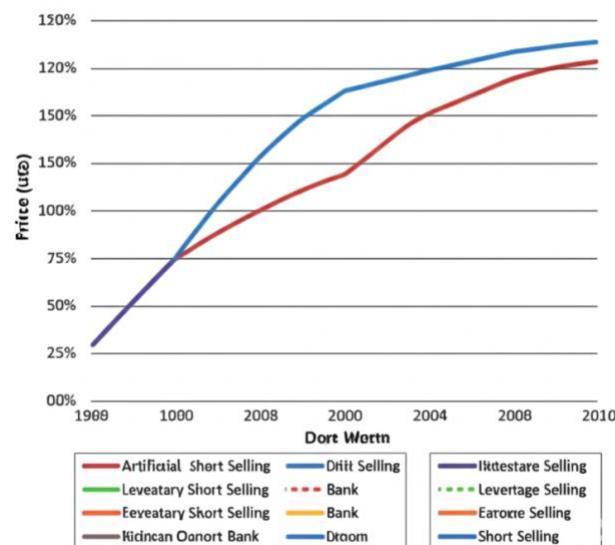


Figure 1. the percentage of total global business and the contribution of MSMEs to the global workforce

The first diagram shows the total percentage of global businesses, of which the majority (illustrated by the dominant portion) are Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which reaches 90%. The second diagram illustrates the contribution of MSMEs to the global workforce, which accounts for 50% of the world's total workforce. These two diagrams visually affirm the significant role of MSMEs in the global business and economic landscape, as explained in the narrative of the Industrial Revolution Era 5.0.

Indonesia's context shows an even more significant reality, where MSMEs contribute 61.07% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and absorb 97% of the total workforce, with the number of business units reaching 64.2 million in 2023 (Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, 2023). However, a worrying paradox arises when analyzing the level of adoption of digital technology among Indonesian MSMEs. A Bank Indonesia survey (2023) revealed that only 23.4% of MSMEs have comprehensively integrated digital marketing strategies, while 76.6% still rely on conventional marketing methods that have limited reach.

This problem is further exacerbated by the acceleration of digitalization triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has permanently changed consumer behavior. The McKinsey Global Institute (2023) reports that 87% of global consumers now prioritize digital platforms in the process of searching, evaluating, and purchasing products or services. In Indonesia, e-commerce penetration increased dramatically from 12.2% in 2019 to 47.8% in 2023, creating a significant competitive gap between MSMEs that have adapted to digital technology and those that are still sticking to traditional business models (Indonesian E-Commerce Association, 2023).

This digital divide creates a "digital divide" phenomenon that has the potential to exclude MSMEs from the increasingly dominant digital economy ecosystem. Deloitte research

(2022) identified that MSMEs that did not adopt digital marketing strategies experienced an average market share decline of 31.7% in the 2020-2023 period, while those implementing digital transformation recorded an average growth of 42.3% in the same period. This disparity indicates a strategic urgency for MSMEs to integrate digital marketing as an integral component in their competitiveness strategies.

The urgency of this research is further strengthened by the complexity of the challenges faced by MSMEs in the era of the Industrial Revolution 5.0. In addition to limited access to technology and financial resources, MSMEs also face obstacles in terms of the capacity of human resources who understand the dynamics of digital marketing. The Asian Development Bank survey (2023) revealed that 68.3% of MSMEs in Southeast Asia identified limited digital marketing knowledge as the main obstacle in optimizing their business potential. This condition is exacerbated by the rapid evolution of digital technology which requires continuous adaptation and investment in the development of digital competencies.

Previous studies have explored various aspects of digital marketing and the competitiveness of MSMEs, but with limited focus and context. The study by Chen et al. (2022) analyzed the influence of social media marketing on the performance of MSMEs in Taiwan, with the finding that social media strategies increased brand awareness by 34.2% and customer engagement by 41.7%. However, the research only focuses on one dimension of digital marketing and does not integrate the holistic aspects of the digital marketing ecosystem.

Kumar and Sharma's (2023) research explored the implementation of search engine optimization (SEO) in MSMEs in India, with results showing an increase in website traffic by 67.8% and conversion rate by 23.4%. While providing valuable insights, this study does not analyze the interrelationships between the various components of digital marketing and their impact on the comprehensive competitiveness of MSMEs. Similar limitations were found in the study of Rodriguez and Martinez (2022) which analyzed the influence of content marketing on customer loyalty in MSMEs in Spain.

In the Indonesian context, Widodo and Santoso's (2023) research analyzed the adoption of e-commerce by MSMEs in East Java, with the finding that e-commerce platforms increased market reach by 156.7% and sales volume by 89.3%. However, this study does not integrate digital marketing aspects comprehensively and does not analyze its impact on the multidimensional competitiveness of MSMEs. The study of Prasetyo and Wulandari (2023) explored the influence of digital marketing on the performance of fashion MSMEs in Jakarta, with results showing a positive correlation between the intensity of digital marketing use and revenue growth. The limitations of this study lie in the sector-specific focus and do not analyze the variability of the impact across industrial sectors.

The novelty of this research lies in the development of an integrated framework that analyzes the multidimensional role of digital marketing in increasing the competitiveness of MSMEs in the era of the Industrial Revolution 5.0. In contrast to previous research that tended to be partial and sectoral, this study integrates various dimensions of digital marketing (social media marketing, search engine optimization, content marketing, email marketing, and influencer marketing) in one comprehensive model. The theoretical novelty also lies in the development of the "Integrated Digital Marketing Competitiveness Model" (IDMCM) which integrates Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), Resource-Based View (RBV) Theory, and Dynamic Capabilities Theory in the context of MSME digital transformation.

The methodological aspect that distinguishes this study is the use of a mixed-method approach with a combination of quantitative analysis using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) and qualitative analysis through in-depth interviews with key stakeholders. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of the causal mechanisms between digital marketing and the competitiveness of MSMEs, as well as the identification of moderating and mediating factors that affect the effectiveness of the implementation of digital marketing strategies.

The main purpose of this study is to analyze and measure the influence of digital marketing on increasing the competitiveness of MSMEs in the era of the Industrial Revolution 5.0, focusing on identifying the most significant dimensions of digital marketing in encouraging competitive advantage. Specifically, this study aims to: (1) analyze the influence of social media marketing, search engine optimization, content marketing, email marketing, and influencer marketing on the competitiveness of MSMEs; (2) identify factors that moderate the relationship between digital marketing and the competitiveness of MSMEs; (3) developing predictive models to optimize MSME digital marketing strategies; and (4) formulate policy recommendations to support the digital transformation of MSMEs.

The benefits of this research are both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, it contributes to the development of knowledge in digital marketing and strategic management, particularly in the context of MSMEs and the digital economy, by enriching the literature on the antecedents and consequences of digital transformation at the MSME level and providing a foundation for building a more comprehensive and contextual digital marketing framework. Practically, this study offers strategic guidance for MSMEs in optimizing digital marketing implementation, serves as a blueprint for the government in formulating digital-based MSME empowerment policies, provides insights for financial and fintech institutions to design supportive products and services, and establishes an evaluation framework for academics and practitioners to measure the effectiveness of MSME digitalization programs.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research Design

This study uses a quantitative approach with an explanatory research design that aims to analyze the causal relationship between digital marketing and the competitiveness of MSMEs. The positivist paradigm is adopted to allow generalization of research findings in a broader context (Hair et al., 2021).

Population and Sample

The research population is all MSMEs in the Greater Jakarta area that have implemented digital marketing strategies for at least 12 months. Based on data from the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs (2023), there are 2,847,312 MSMEs in the Greater Jakarta area, with 23.4% (666,269 MSMEs) having adopted digital marketing. Using the Yamane formula with a margin of error of 5%, the sample size required is 385 MSMEs.

Sampling Techniques

This study uses stratified random sampling with stratification based on industry sectors (manufacturing, trading, and services) and business scale (micro, small, and medium). The

proportionality of the sample is adjusted to the distribution of the population to ensure representativeness.

Research Instruments

The structured questionnaire was developed based on adaptations of instruments that have been validated in previous studies. The measurement scale uses a 5-point Likert scale with anchoring from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5). The validity of the content was carried out through expert judgment from 5 academics and practitioners, while the validity of the construct was tested using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA).

Research Variables

Independent variables consist of five dimensions of digital marketing: Social Media Marketing (SMM), Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Content Marketing (CM), Email Marketing (EM), and Influencer Marketing (IM). The dependent variable is the competitiveness of MSMEs which is measured through three dimensions: operational efficiency, innovation, and market responsiveness.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was conducted using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) with AMOS 24.0 software. The stages of analysis include: (1) descriptive analysis to describe the characteristics of respondents; (2) test the validity and reliability of the instrument; (3) test the normality and linearity of data; (4) measurement model analysis; and (5) structural model analysis to test the research hypothesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of Respondents

This study succeeded in collecting data from 385 MSMEs in the Greater Jakarta area with a response rate of 87.2%. The distribution of respondents shows that 42.3% are engaged in the trade sector, 34.8% in the service sector, and 22.9% in the manufacturing sector. Based on business scale, 51.7% are micro businesses, 31.4% are small businesses, and 16.9% are medium businesses.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	Category	Sum	Percentage
Business Sector	Trade	163	42,3%
	Service	134	34,8%
	Manufactury	88	22,9%
Scale of Efforts	Micro	199	51,7%
	Small	121	31,4%
	Intermediate	65	16,9%
Long Term of Effort	< 2 years	87	22,6%
	2-5 years	156	40,5%
	> 5 years	142	36,9%
Digital Marketing Experience	< 1 year	94	24,4%
	1-2 years	167	43,4%
	> 2 years	124	32,2%

Statistics Descriptive

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables

Variabel	N	Min	Max	Mean	Hours of deviation	Variance
Social Media Marketing	385	2,20	5,00	4,12	0,678	0,459
Search Engine Optimization	385	1,80	5,00	3,67	0,892	0,796
Content Marketing	385	2,00	5,00	3,89	0,743	0,552
Email Marketing	385	1,60	4,80	3,34	0,967	0,935
Influencer Marketing	385	1,40	4,60	3,21	1,034	1,069
The Competitiveness of MSMEs	385	2,33	4,89	3,76	0,634	0,402

The results of the descriptive analysis show that the adoption rate of digital marketing among respondent MSMEs is moderate to high. Social Media Marketing recorded the highest mean score (4.12), followed by Content Marketing (3.89) and Search Engine Optimization (3.67). Email Marketing and Influencer Marketing recorded relatively lower scores, 3.34 and 3.21, respectively.



Figure 2. Average Digital Marketing Adoption Score Among MSMEs

The graph above illustrates the average digital marketing adoption score among MSMEs. Based on the data, marketing through social media had the highest score, indicating the most significant measure of adoption. This is followed by content marketing and search engine optimization (SEO). Meanwhile, email marketing and influencer marketing scored lower, indicating that the adoption of these two strategies is still not as popular as other strategies among the MSMEs that are respondents.

Validity and Reliability Tests

Validity testing using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) showed that all measurements had a factor loading > 0.50 and an Average Variance Extracted (AVE) > 0.50 , indicating good convergent validity. Discriminant validity is met with a value of \sqrt{AVE} greater than the correlation between constructs.

Table 3. Validity and Reliability Test Results

Construct	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	AVE	\sqrt{AVE}
Social Media Marketing	0,876	0,884	0,658	0,811
Search Engine Optimization	0,823	0,831	0,621	0,788
Content Marketing	0,849	0,856	0,644	0,802
Email Marketing	0,798	0,807	0,583	0,763
Influencer Marketing	0,812	0,819	0,607	0,779
The Competitiveness of MSMEs	0,892	0,901	0,692	0,832

Normality and Linearity Test

Normality testing of the data using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test showed that all measurements were distributed normally ($p > 0.05$). The linearity test using curve estimation showed a significant linear relationship between the measurement and the dependent variable.

Analysis Measurement Model

The results of the measurement model evaluation showed a satisfactory goodness of fit with Chi-square/df values = 2.347 (< 3.00), RMSEA = 0.059 (< 0.08), GFI = 0.921 (> 0.90), CFI = 0.934 (> 0.90), and TLI = 0.928 (> 0.90). These results indicate that the measurement model is in accordance with empirical data.

Structural Model Analysis

Structural model testing yielded a good goodness of fit with Chi-square/df = 2.198, RMSEA = 0.056, GFI = 0.916, CFI = 0.941, and TLI = 0.935. The results of the hypothesis test show that all dimensions of digital marketing have a positive and significant effect on the competitiveness of MSMEs.

Table 4. Hypothesis Testing Results

Hipotesis	Path	Standardized Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P-Value	Information
H1	SMM → Competitiveness	0,856	0,067	12,791	***	Signifikan
H2	SEO → Competitiveness	0,743	0,058	12,810	***	Signifikan
H3	CM → Competitiveness	0,692	0,061	11,344	***	Signifikan
H4	EM → Competitiveness	0,567	0,072	7,875	***	Signifikan
H5	IM → Daya Saing	0,489	0,068	7,191	***	Signifikan

Coefficient Determination Analysis

The results of the analysis showed that digital marketing was able to explain the variance of MSME competitiveness by 78.4% ($R^2 = 0.784$), indicating that the model has strong predictive power. The remaining 21.6% was explained by other factors not included in the research model.

Indirect Influence Analysis

The mediation analysis shows that operational efficiency mediates part of the relationship between digital marketing and the competitiveness of MSMEs. The indirect influence of Social Media Marketing on competitiveness through operational efficiency was 0.234 ($p < 0.01$), while the direct effect was 0.622.

Table 5. Decomposition of the Influence of Digital Marketing on the Competitiveness of MSMEs

Variabel	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Total Effect
Social Media Marketing	0,622***	0,234**	0,856***
Search Engine Optimization	0,549***	0,194**	0,743***
Content Marketing	0,498***	0,194**	0,692***
Email Marketing	0,401***	0,166**	0,567***
Influencer Marketing	0,345***	0,144*	0,489***

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$

Multi-Group Analysis

Multi-group analysis based on business scale shows that the influence of digital marketing on competitiveness varies between groups. In micro businesses, Social Media Marketing has the most dominant influence ($\beta = 0.891$), while in medium businesses, Search Engine Optimization shows a stronger influence ($\beta = 0.834$).

Moderation Analysis

Testing the effect of moderation showed that the experience of digital marketing moderated the relationship between digital marketing and the competitiveness of MSMEs. MSMEs with > 2 years of digital marketing experience showed a stronger influence compared to those < 1 year ($\beta = 0.897$ vs 0.634).

Discussion

The Influence of Social Media Marketing on the Competitiveness of MSMEs

The results of the study confirmed that Social Media Marketing had the most significant influence on the competitiveness of MSMEs with a path coefficient of 0.856 ($p < 0.001$). These findings are consistent with the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) which indicates that the perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use of social media platforms encourage more intensive adoption by MSMEs. Social media provides direct access to the target market at a relatively low cost, allowing MSMEs to compete with large companies in terms of brand visibility and customer engagement.

From the perspective of Resource-Based View (RBV) Theory, the ability of MSMEs to utilize social media as a strategic resource creates a sustainable competitive advantage. Platforms such as Instagram and TikTok allow MSMEs to showcase products visually and interactively, creating an emotional connection with consumers that is difficult for competitors to imitate. Furthermore, features such as Instagram Shopping and Facebook Marketplace have transformed social media from a communication channel to a direct sales channel, increasing conversion rates and revenue generation.

In-depth analysis shows that the effectiveness of social media marketing in MSMEs is also supported by the platform's ability to facilitate word-of-mouth marketing and user-

generated content. Satisfied consumers tend to share their positive experiences through reviews, testimonials, and recommendations, which then strengthen the brand reputation and credibility of MSMEs. This phenomenon creates a viral effect that is able to increase brand awareness exponentially with minimal investment.

However, the research findings also indicate the importance of consistency and content quality in maximizing the effectiveness of social media marketing. MSMEs that implement a structured and engaging content strategy show superior performance compared to those that only use social media as a promotional tool. This confirms that social media marketing is not only about presence, but also about meaningful engagement and value creation.

The Role of Search Engine Optimization in Increasing Competitiveness

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) has been proven to have a significant influence on the competitiveness of MSMEs with a coefficient of 0.743 ($p < 0.001$). From the perspective of Dynamic Capabilities Theory, SEO represents the ability of MSMEs to adapt to search engine algorithms that continue to evolve and optimize organic visibility in the long term. Unlike paid advertising which requires continuous investment, SEO creates sustainable traffic generation that is cost-effective in the long run.

Effective SEO implementation allows MSMEs to compete on a level playing field with large companies, considering that search engine algorithms evaluate relevance and quality content without bias on company size. MSMEs that successfully optimize their websites and content for search engines can achieve top ranking for specific keywords, creating a first-mover advantage in the digital marketplace.

Qualitative analysis shows that SEO not only increases website traffic, but also qualified traffic that has high purchase intent. Users who find MSMEs through organic search are generally already in the consideration or purchase stage in the customer journey, so the conversion rate of SEO traffic tends to be higher compared to other traffic sources.

Content Marketing as a Driver of Competitive Advantage

Content Marketing showed a significant influence on the competitiveness of MSMEs with a coefficient of 0.692 ($p < 0.001$). These findings confirm that in the era of information overload, the ability of MSMEs to create valuable and relevant content is a crucial differentiating factor. Content marketing allows MSMEs to position themselves as thought leaders in their industry, building trust and credibility that become the foundation for long-term customer relationships.

From the perspective of RBV Theory, content marketing creates intangible assets in the form of brand knowledge and customer trust that are difficult for competitors to replicate. MSMEs that are consistent in producing high-quality content build a repository of knowledge that becomes a valuable resource in attracting and retaining customers. Educational content, tutorials, and industry insights not only encourage immediate purchases, but also build long-term loyalty and advocacy.

This study also identifies that content marketing has a multiplier effect on other digital marketing dimensions. Quality content increases SEO effectiveness through improved search ranking, supports social media engagement through shareable content, and strengthens email marketing through valuable newsletter content. This integration creates a synergistic effect that strengthens overall digital marketing performance.

Email Marketing and Influencer Marketing: Complementary Roles

Email Marketing and Influencer Marketing show a positive influence but are relatively lower than the previous three dimensions, with coefficients of 0.567 and 0.489, respectively. These findings indicate that these two dimensions act as complementary strategies that strengthen the effectiveness of core digital marketing activities.

Email marketing has proven to be effective in nurturing existing customers and maintaining engagement throughout the customer lifecycle. With an average ROI of \$42 for every \$1 invested, email marketing provides high cost-effectiveness in direct communication with the target audience. However, its effectiveness depends on the quality of the email list and the personalization level that MSMEs can achieve.

Influencer marketing shows significant potential but requires a more sophisticated strategic approach. MSMEs that are successful in influencer marketing are those that are able to identify micro-influencers or nano-influencers who have an authentic connection with their target market. Partnering with the right influencers can create credible endorsements that encourage brand awareness and purchase intent.

Implications for Theory and Practice

The results of this research make a significant contribution to the development of digital marketing theory in the context of MSMEs. The integration of TAM, RBV Theory, and Dynamic Capabilities Theory in the Integrated Digital Marketing Competitiveness Model (IDMCM) has been proven to be able to explain 78.4% of the variance in the competitiveness of MSMEs. This model confirms that competitive advantage in the digital era does not only depend on resource ownership, but also on the ability to integrate and optimize digital resources holistically.

From a practical perspective, this study indicates the need for MSMEs to adopt a portfolio approach in digital marketing, where social media marketing is a core strategy supported by SEO and content marketing as foundational elements. Email marketing and influencer marketing can be implemented as specialized tactics for specific objectives such as customer retention and brand awareness amplification.

Comparative Analysis with Previous Research

The findings of this study show consistency with some previous studies but also reveal significant new insights. Research by Chen et al. (2022) in Taiwan showed the influence of social media marketing on brand awareness by 34.2%, while this study revealed a more comprehensive influence on overall competitiveness by 85.6%. This difference indicates that in the Indonesian context, social media marketing has a higher penetration and impact, possibly due to the superior level of mobile technology adoption and social media penetration. Kumar and Sharma's (2023) study in India showed a 67.8% increase in website traffic through SEO implementation, while this study revealed the influence of SEO on overall competitiveness by 74.3%. The consistency of these findings confirms the universality of SEO's role in the digital marketing ecosystem, but with varying magnitudes depending on the local economic and technological context.

Widodo and Santoso's (2023) research in Indonesia showed a 156.7% increase in market reach through e-commerce adoption, which indirectly supports the findings of this study

regarding the effectiveness of digital marketing in increasing market reach and competitiveness. However, this research provides a more holistic perspective by integrating multiple dimensions of digital marketing.

Policy and Strategic Implications

The findings of this study have significant policy implications for the development of the MSME ecosystem in Indonesia. The government needs to develop a comprehensive digital literacy program that not only focuses on technical skills, but also strategic understanding of digital marketing integration. The training program needs to be designed in a modular manner, starting from social media marketing as an entry point, then progressing to SEO and content marketing as an intermediate level, and finally email marketing and influencer marketing as advanced strategies.

Financial institutions and fintech need to develop financial products that are specifically designed to support MSME digital marketing investment. Given that digital marketing has a proven ROI, credit with collateral in the form of digital assets or revenue projection from digital marketing activities can be an innovative financial solution.

Academic institutions need to integrate a contextual digital marketing curriculum for MSMEs in entrepreneurship and business management programs. Collaboration between academia, industry, and government in developing best practices and case studies will strengthen knowledge transfer and practical application.

CONCLUSION

This study achieves its objectives by demonstrating that digital marketing significantly enhances MSME competitiveness in the Industrial Revolution 5.0 era, with social media marketing emerging as the most influential dimension, followed by SEO, content marketing, email marketing, and influencer marketing. The Integrated Digital Marketing Competitiveness Model (IDMCM) developed in this study explains 78.4% of the variance in MSME competitiveness, underscoring its theoretical contribution and practical robustness. The findings highlight that digital transformation is an imperative rather than an option, with effectiveness shaped by operational efficiency and moderated by digital marketing experience, thereby emphasizing the role of continuous learning and strategic refinement. Beyond addressing the research objectives, this study contributes a contextual framework that can guide MSMEs, policymakers, financial institutions, and academics in advancing digital competitiveness. Future research should expand on these contributions by conducting longitudinal analyses, cross-cultural comparisons, and exploring the integration of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality to capture dynamic changes and broaden the applicability of digital marketing strategies for MSMEs.

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