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The Effect of Social Media Marketing and E-Service Quality on the Decision to Choose Private Tutoring Services "Be Smart Student" Mediated by Brand Trust

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Abstract: This research aims to determine and analyze the influence of social media marketing and e-service quality on the decision to choose Private Lesson "Be Smart Student" mediated by brand trust. The research uses quantitative method and data collection technique using g-form questionnaire for 314 respondents (parents) of students. The data analysis technique uses path analysis to determine the fit of the structural equation model with SmartPLS 4.1.0. The results conclude: Social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on choosing decisions; E- Service Quality has a positive and significant effect on choosing decisions; Social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on brand trust; E-Service Quality has a positive and significant effect on brand trust; Social media marketing has a positive and significant influence on choosing decisions mediated by brand trust; and E-Service Quality has a positive and significant effect on choosing decisions mediated by brand trust; The results have implications for efforts to improve marketing strategies through applying digital platforms to market institutional programs and learning processes.

Keywords: Social Media Marketing, E-Service Quality, Brand Trust, Choosing Decisions.

INTRODUCTION

The use of social media for marketing the services of a private tutoring institution and the application of *e-service quality* is expected to not only be able to increase the decision to choose the tutoring institution, but also to increase public *trust* in institution (*brand trust*). Marketing education services through social media helps parents and / or students make decisions or determine the choice of educational institutions that they will follow (Fauzan *et al.*, 2023); (Perera *et al.*, 2022); (Simanjuntak *et al.*, 2024). The application of *e-ServQual* significantly influences the decision to choose an educational *start-up* application (Lukiyana & Ramafita, 2024); and affects student retention in choosing a school (Oanh & Tho, 2024). *E-servqual* influences the decision to choose a service application (Alfani *et al.*, 2023).

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Apart from influencing the decision to choose, *social media marketing* also affects brand trust (Chavadi et al., 2023); (Haudi et al., 2022); (Sari & Hayuningtias, 2024). Social media marketing also affects the institution's brand trust in attracting prospective students (Sanghvi, 2020); and on the image of the institution (Falah & Setiawan, 2022). Likewise, educational e-service quality has a significant effect on e-trust (Mahdyvianra et al., 2021). E-service quality is able to build high student trust in the campus (brand) (Asakdiyah & Ismanto, 2022).

Trust is formed through consistent positive experiences, a sense of security in transactions, service efficiency, responsiveness to customer needs, personalization of services, and fulfillment of promises, thus contributing to customers' positive perceptions of the brand, which ultimately increases loyalty and trust (Affandi *et al.*, 2023)., brand trust affects the decision to choose an educational institution (Saputri & Sudhana, 2024); (Sudiantini *et al.*, 2023). Increased brand trust plays a role in turning online service quality perceptions into concrete purchasing decisions (Affandi *et al.*, 2023); (Saputra *et al.*, 2022). High trust affects service purchase decisions (Ling *et al.*, 2023).

This fact shows that brand trust can be functioning as a mediator that bridges the influence of social media marketing on buying / choosing decisions (Ebrahim, 2020); (Sohail et al., 2020); (Ramadhani & Prasasti, 2023). The application of social media marketing as a form of digital marketing supported by high consumer trust affects consumer purchasing behavior (Enehasse & Sağlam, 2020). Brand trust mediates the effect of social media marketing on brand loyalty with indicators of choice decisions (Sohail et al., 2020); (Umar et al., 2023).

Brand trust not only mediates the effect of *social media marketing* on purchasing decisions, but also becomes an intermediary that explains how *e-service quality* can influence purchasing decisions. This tendency is due to brand trust providing a basis for confidence for customers to make purchases. Without trust, even though *e-service quality* is high, customers may hesitate to make a choice decision (Ramadhani & Prasasti, 2023). Therefore, brand trust mediates the effect of product/service quality on product purchasing decisions (Diyanti & Giantari, 2021); (Jalantina, 2022). Brand trust mediates the effect of service quality on loyalty with an indicator of the decision to choose an educational institution (Tammubua, 2021).

In connection with some of the research results above, the problems in this study include how the direct effect of social media marketing and *e-service quality* on the decision to choose private tutoring services, the direct effect of social media marketing and *e-service quality* on brand trust, the effect of brand trust on the decision to choose private tutoring services, and the indirect effect of social media marketing and *e-service quality* on the decision to choose private tutoring services mediated by brand trust.

METHODS

This research used quantitative methods. The research subjects were students represented by parents/guardians of students at the Private Tutoring institution "Be Smart Student" Bekasi. The research sample was 314 students at the institution from a population of 1,455 students recorded in September 2024. The data collection technique used was a questionnaire. The data obtained were analyzed using SEM- PLS with the help of the SmartPLS Ver. 4.1.0. Data analysis refers to the opinion (Hair *et al.*, 2022); (Henseler *et al.*, 2015) includes the following stages.

Outer Model Test through convergent validity, discriminant validity, and construct reliability and validity tests Assumption Test for normality of data distribution using skewness and kurtosis values, and multicollinearity using the total inner variance inflation factor (VIF) value. Descriptive test using mean value descriptives. Inner Model Test based on the results of the original sample estimate, standard deviation, estimate for path

coefficients and predictive relevance. The Model Fit test uses the standard root mean square residual (SRMR) and normed fit index (NFI) values.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Outer model test results. The results of this test show that all data analysis requirements using SEM- PLS path analysis have been met, including outer loading of all constructs> 0.70.

Table 1. Outer Loading

Construct	Outer Loading
PMS1 <-> Social Media Marketing	0,751
PMS2 <-> Social Media Marketing	0,816
PMS3 <-> Social Media Marketing	0,780
PMS4 <-> Social Media Marketing	0,769
PMS5 <-> Social Media Marketing	0,771
ESQ1 <-> E-Service Quality	0,820
ESQ2 <-> E-Service Quality	0,781
ESQ3 <-> E-Service Quality	0,856
ESQ4 <-> E-Service Quality	0,788
ESQ5 <-> E-Service Quality	0,804
KPR1 <-> Brand Trust	0,834
KPR2 <-> Brand Trust	0,824
KPR3 <-> Brand Trust	0,800
KPR4 <-> Brand Trust	0,833
KPM1<->Choosing Decision	0,829
KPM2<->Choosing Decision	0,807
KPM3<->Voting Decision	0,799
KPM4<->Voting Decision	0,808

Source: Data Processing Results (2025)

Furthermore, the results of the discriminant validity test show that the *Cronbach's Alpha* value and *composite* reliability> 0.70 so that the construct has adequate reliability, as well as the *average variance extracted* (AVE) value> 0.50 so that further analysis can be carried out.

Table 2. Construct Reliability and Validity

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Case	Cronbach's		Composite reliability	Average variance
	alpha	(rho_a)	(rho_c)	extracted (AVE)
ESQ	0,869	0,870	0,905	0,656
KPM	0,827	0,829	0,885	0,657
MORT GAGE	0,842	0,844	0,894	0,677
PMS	0,837	0,838	0,884	0,605

Source: Data Processing Results (2025)

Assumption test results

The assumption test results show that the data is normally distributed based on the values of *skewness* and *kurtosis* which is within the range of ± 1.96 (significance 0.05).

Table 3. Skewness and Kurtosis Values

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Case Index	Mean	Excess kurtosis	Skewness	
PMS1	3,5924	-0,6212	-0,5666	
PMS2	3,6847	-0,8344	-0,5391	
PMS3	3,5382	-1,0976	-0,4670	

PMS4	3,4395	-1,1144	-0,4497
PMS5	3,4841	-1,2105	-0,3464
ESQ1	3,7166	-1,0246	-0,5441
ESQ2	3,6019	-1,0822	-0,4660
ESQ3	3,6083	-1,0822	-0,4610
ESQ4	3,6115	-0,9381	-0,6202
ESQ5	3,6115	-1,0760	-0,4437
KPR1	3,6115	-1,0298	-0,5127
KPR2	3,5924	-0,9980	-0,4904
KPR3	3,4459	-1,1954	-0,3391
KPR4	3,6210	-0,9570	-0,5871
KPM1	3,7166	-0,7623	-0,7055
KPM2	3,7420	-0,9157	-0,7281
KPM3	3,3503	-1,4238	-0,3280
KPM4	3,439	-1,3640	-0,3944

The results of other assumption tests show that the independent variables do not produce multicollinearity symptoms based on the inner VIF value <5.

Table 4. Inner Total Variance Inflation Factors (VIF)

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Case Index	VIF		
ESQ -> KPM	1,329		
ESQ -> MORTGAGE	1,235		
KPR -> KPM	1,325		
PMS -> KPM	1,367		
PMS -> MORTGAGE	1,235		

Source: Data Processing Results (2025)

Descriptive Test Results

Referring to the *mean* data contained in Table 3, the descriptive test results can be concluded as follows.

The Social Media Marketing variable includes five indicators with an average score of 3.5478. This achievement shows that on average, respondents, namely parents/guardians of private tutoring students "Be Smart Student" or BSS Private Tutoring agree with marketing activities through social media carried out by the institution.

The *E-Service Quality* variable includes five indicators with an average score of 3.6300. This achievement shows that the average respondent agrees with the services and learning activities through electronic and digital devices provided by the institution.

The Brand Trust variable includes four indicators with an average score of 3.5677. This achievement shows that on average, respondents have good trust in all aspects of the services and private learning activities provided by the institution.

The Choice Decision Variable includes four indicators with an average score of 3.5621. This achievement shows that on average, respondents consider various aspects of the institution before deciding to choose or buy a private service program for the purpose of assisting their child's educational development.

Inner Model Test Results

The results of this test show the significance of the direct and indirect effects of social media marketing and *e-service quality* on choice decisions mediated by brand trust, while testing the proposed hypothesis.

Table 5. Direct Effect Test Results

Case	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	T statistics (O/STDEV)	P values	Decision
Social Media Marketing - > Choosing Decision	0,2967	0,2986	0,0580	5,1127	0,0000	H1 accepted
E-Service Quality -> Decision to Choose	0,2022	0,2028	0,0564	3,5863	0,0003	H2 accepted
Brand Trust -> Choosing Decision	0,2324	0,2325	0,0597	3,8943	0,0001	H3 accepted
Social Media Marketing - > Brand Trust	0,3161	0,3193	0,0545	5,7996	0,0000	H4 accepted
E-Service Quality -> Brand Trust	0,2672	0,2683	0,0612	4,3675	0,0000	H5 accepted

Source: Data Processing Results (2025)

Furthermore, the indirect effect is shown in the following table.

Table 6. Indirect Effect Test Results

Case	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	T statistics (O/STDEV)	P values	Keputusan
Pemasaran Media Sosial -> Kepercayaan Merek -> Keputusan Memilih	0,0735	0,0747	0,0245	2,9958	0,0028	H6 diterima
E-Service Quality -> Kepercayaan Merek -> Keputusan Memilih	0,0621	0,0623	0,0215	2,8833	0,0040	H7 diterima

Source: Data Processing Results (2025)

Model Accuracy Test Results

The results of this test are the *final result of* determining the suitability of the proposed structural equation model based on several measures, including SRMR and NFI with the results showing that the SRMR value is 0.08 and the NFI value is close to 0.9, which means that the proposed structural equation model is in the *good fit* category.

Table 7. Fit Summary Test Results

Size	Saturated model	Estimated model
SRMR	0,0603	0,0603
NFI	0,8316	0,8316

Source: Data Processing Results (2025)

The resulting partial least square structural equation model is as follows.

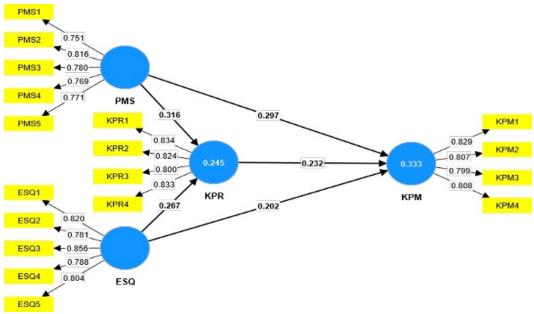


Figure 1. Structural Equation Model Generated

Discussion

The results of the descriptive analysis in Table 3 and the test results of direct and indirect effects in Table 5 and Table 6 can be explained as follows.

Social Media Marketing and the Choice Decision

Marketing through social media or social media marketing system is a pattern of marketing activities for a brand using social media to turn social media connectedness (network) and interaction (influence) into a valuable strategic tool to achieve the desired marketing results (Fangfang et al., 2021). The results of descriptive analysis show that the responses of respondents of parents of students to the five indicators of Social Media Marketing are good with an average score of 3.5478, which means that respondents agree on the aspects of marketing through social media implemented by private tutoring management. While the decision to choose or buy is a basic psychological process that plays an important role in understanding that consumers actually make their purchasing decisions (Kotler & Keller, 2019). The results of respondents' responses to the four indicators that were taken into consideration by respondents to make a decision to choose this institution, which on average agreed with an average score of 3.5621. These two descriptive analysis results show the positive influence of social media marketing on respondents' decisions to choose these private tutoring institutions. This fact is in line with the results of hypothesis testing which shows that social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private institution.

This trend is in line with the opinion that marketing through social media (social media marketing) can increase customer awareness of a brand or product (Sohail et al., 2020). Some research results also show the same conclusion, that the application of marketing through social media is useful for helping parents and or students to make decisions or determine the choice of institutions. (Fauzan et al., 2023); (Karamang, 2021); (Mardius et al., 2023); (Perera et al., 2022); (Qarlina et al., 2023); (Simanjuntak et al., 2024); (Ardiansa & Oetarjo, 2022). Therefore, hypothesis 1: social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private institution, can be accepted.

E-Service Quality and Choice Decision

According to Wu (2014) in (Mahdyvianra et al., 2021), e-service quality is a service

facility for internet consumers in the form of expanding the ability of a site to facilitate buying and selling, shipping and distribution activities effectively and efficiently. Respondents' responses to the five indicators of *e-service quality* are good with an average score of 3.6300, which means that respondents agree with the aspects of *e-service quality* applied by private tutoring management. Meanwhile, the decision to buy / choose is the final stage of product selection from various alternatives made by consumers, so that they decide to buy or not buy (Kotler & Armstrong, 2019). The respondents' feedback on the four indicators considered in their decision to choose the institution has also been positive. Respondents were agreed with the achievement of an average score of 3.5621. These two analysis results show that *e-service quality* influences respondents' decisions to choose this private tutoring institution. The results of hypothesis testing also confirm that *e-service quality* has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private institution.

The results of this analysis are in line with the opinion that the company's (service provider) ability to provide services in accordance with consumer preferences can influence purchasing decisions (Saputra et al., 2022). In the field of education, the e-ServQual method has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose the Zenius Education application as an educational start-up or learning aid (Lukiyana & Ramafita, 2024). The application of e- ServQual also significantly affects the e-trust of educational application services (Mahdyvianra et al., 2021). In general, e-Servqual has a significant effect on purchasing decisions (Muslim, 2018); (Saputra et al., 2022). Therefore, hypothesis 2: e-service quality has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private institution, can be accepted.

Brand Trust and Choice Decision

Brand trust is a consumer assessment of one aspect of product/brand assurance in providing quality services (Tjiptono, 2019). The respondents' responses to the four Brand Trust indicators achieved an average score of 3.5677, indicating that, on average, respondents agreed to place a high level of trust in the private tutoring institution. The achievement of the same response is also seen in the four indicators that consumers consider to make a decision to choose the institution with an average score of 3.5621. Both analysis results are in line with the results of the hypothesis test, namely that there is a positive and significant influence of brand trust on the decision to choose. This trend is in line with the opinion that brand trust is the main foundation in purchasing decisions, especially in online marketing (through social media) (Pop et al., 2022). Trust affects online purchasing decisions (Saputra et al., 2022). Support for brand trust and the application of quality services affect decisions in choosing a school (Saputri & Sudhana, 2024); (Sudiantini et al., 2023). If one of the indicators of eloyalty is the decision to buy or choose or use the services provided, then e-trust has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose. Together with e-servqual and advertising, brand trust has a positive effect on the decision to choose a service application (Alfani et al., 2023). Brand trust and brand image significantly influence students' decision to choose a school (Aji et al., 2022). Together with social media and WOM, brand trust influences the decision to choose a school (Ardiansa & Oetarjo, 2022); (Sari & Sylvia, 2020). Therefore, hypothesis 3: brand trust has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private institution, can be accepted.

Social Media Marketing and Brand Trust

The average respondent of parents of students gave a good response to the five indicators of Social Media Marketing and four indicators of Brand Trust with an average score of 3.5478 and 3.5677, respectively. The results of the descriptive analysis of the two variables lead to the influence of marketing through social media on brand trust owned by private tutoring institutions. The influence of marketing through social media on brand trust

is also reinforced by the results of hypothesis testing which shows a positive and significant influence between the two variables on brand trust.

The hypothesis test results are in line with the opinion that the availability of brand communities, entertainment, interaction, and customization features in social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on brand trust and brand loyalty (Sohail et al., 2020). Social media marketing has a significant effect on brand trust (Chavadi et al., 2023). Social media marketing significantly affects brand trust (Haudi et al., 2022); (Sari & Hayuningtias, 2024). The use of social media marketing in the education sector affects the institution's brand trust and is able to attract prospective students (Sanghvi, 2020). Some of these research results refer to the tendency of a connection with conditions, that interactions through social media can influence consumer purchasing behavior and brand trust, thus having a significant effect on purchasing decisions (Ebrahim, 2020). This is because marketing through social media includes all marketing activities that use several online channels to introduce and socialize products, strengthen brand trust (branding) and build communication with customers (Sitompul et al., 2021). The five dimensions of social media marketing activities, namely entertainment, interaction, trendiness, customization, and wordof-mouth have a positive effect on brand trust (Irawan & Hadisumarto, 2020). Therefore, hypothesis 4: social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on brand trust, accepted.

E-Service Quality and Brand Trust

The achievement of respondents' responses to the five indicators of *E-Service Quality* was good with an average score of 3.6300. In addition, the responses to the four indicators of Brand Trust were also good with an average score of 3.5677. The achievement of responses to these two variables indicates the influence of *e-service quality* on brand trust which is corroborated by the results of hypothesis testing, that the effect of *e-service quality* is positive and significant.

The trend of this influence is in line with the opinion that high *e-service quality* can build and strengthen consumer trust in brands. (Affandi *et al.*, 2023). The results of previous studies also show that the *service quality of* a product has a positive effect on *brand trust* (Mariana *et al.*, 2021). *Perceived quality* has a significant effect on *brand trust* (Chavadi *et al.*, 2023). *E-service quality* in the field of education has a significant and strong influence on trust or *e-trust* (Mahdyvianra *et al.*, 2021). *E-service quality* is able to build student trust in their campus (Asakdiyah & Ismanto, 2022). Therefore, hypothesis 5: *e-service quality* has a positive and significant effect on brand trust, accepted.

Social Media Marketing, Brand Trust and Choice Decision

The results of the descriptive analysis show that there is a tendency to influence each other between social media marketing, trust and the decision to choose a tutoring institution. Respondents' responses to the three variables were good, with the average respondent agreed on aspects of all three. The results of hypothesis testing corroborate this trend, that brand trust plays a positive and significant mediating role in the influence of social media marketing on the decision to choose.

This fact is in line with the results of previous research, that brand trust functions as a mediator that bridges the influence of social media marketing or social media marketing on purchasing decisions (Ebrahim, 2020); (Sohail et al., 2020). Brand trust mediates the influence of social media marketing on purchase intention or choice (Ramadhani & Prasasti, 2023). The application of social media marketing supported by high trust affects consumer purchasing behavior (Enehasse & Sağlam, 2020).

This trend shows that brand trust is formed through various social media marketing

activities, such as positive reviews, customer testimonials, quick responses to complaints, and information transparency (Ebrahim, 2020); (Sohail *et al.*, 2020).

The decision to choose is a form of brand loyalty, while brand trust mediates the effect of social media marketing on brand loyalty (Sohail et al., 2020); (Umar et al., 2023); and brand equity (Irawan & Hadisumarto, 2020). Some of these opinions confirm that marketing through social media and e-service quality has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose which is mediated by trust in the brand., hypothesis 6: social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on voting decisions mediated by brand trust, is accepted.

E-Service Quality, Brand Trust and Choice Decision

Five indicators of *E-Service Quality* received good responses from respondents of parents of private tutoring institutions. Respondents also gave good responses to four indicators of Brand Trust and four indicators of the decision to choose the institution. This good response shows that respondents agreed with the aspects of *e-service quality* provided, the brand trust embedded in the private institution, and the aspects of consideration for deciding to choose the institution. This fact indicates that brand trust can increase the influence of *e-service quality* on the decision to choose. In line with the descriptive test results, the hypothesis test also proves the role of brand trust in mediating the significant effect of *e-service quality* on the decision to choose.

The results of this study are in line with the results of previous research, including high e-service quality increases brand trust (Asakdiyah & Ismanto, 2022). This high trust affects service purchase decisions (Ling et al., 2023). Brand trust is a mediator that explains the effect of e-service quality on choice decisions. Without trust, even though e-service quality is high, consumers may hesitate to make a choice decision (Ramadhani & Prasasti, 2023). In the world of education, brand trust mediates the effect of educational service quality on loyalty, which is characterized by the decision to choose a (Tammubua, 2021). The results of other studies also reveal a trend, that brand trust plays a role in linking e-service quality with the decision to choose a service provider, turning the perception of online service quality into a concrete choice decision through increasing consumer confidence (Affandi et al., 2023); (Saputra et al., 2022). Brand trust mediates the effect of product/service quality on choice decisions (Diyanti & Giantari, 2021); (Jalantina, 2022). Therefore, hypothesis 7: e-service quality has a positive and significant effect on voting decisions mediated by brand trust, accepted.

CONCLUSION

The results showed that:

Social media jmarketing has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private tutoring service program. jE-Service Quality has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private tutoring service program. Brand trust has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private tutoring service program. Social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on Les Privat brand trust. E-Service Quality has a positive and significant effect on Les Privat brand trust. Social media marketing has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose Les Privat service program mediated by brand trust. E-Service Quality has a positive and significant effect on the decision to choose a private tutoring service program mediated by brand trust.

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