# **Dr. Aparna Kansal** Ph.D. Marketing

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#### Education

Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad Ph.D. Marketing Thesis Title: Essays on Customer Retention Strategy for Online Service Platforms	2020-25
Indian Institute of Management Calcutta Post Graduate Diploma in Management (eq. to MBA)	2016-18
Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (formerly IGIT) B.Tech. Electronics and Communication Engineering	2012-16

#### Research Interests

**Domain:** Platform Economics, Digital Marketing, Marketing Strategy, Marketing Strategies for Platforms, Influencer Marketing

**Teaching**: Core Marketing, Marketing Strategy, Marketing for Startups and platforms, E-businesses, Digital Marketing, Strategic Marketing with Markstrat

Methods: Data Science, Econometrics, NLP, Machine Learning, Experiments

Languages and Software: Python, R, Stata and Tableau

## Working Papers

Meeting in the Middle: Using a Human Agent Layer on Online Aggregator Platforms (With Swanand Deodhar, Amalesh Sharma, Sourav Borah).

Let's Beat the Algorithm: Deceptive Influencer Practices in the Face of Platform Algorithms (With Amalesh Sharma, Sourav Borah).

Service Types, Human Agency by Digital Service Platforms, and Disintermediation (With Amalesh Sharma, Swanand Deodhar, Sourav Borah).

Is more always the merrier? Network Effects and Service Provider Churn on Service Platforms (With Sourav Borah, Swanand Deodhar, Amalesh Sharma).

Platform Growth (Ongoing).

Dynamic Pricing and Customer Repurchases (Ongoing).

#### Teaching Experience

## Visiting Faculty, National Institute of Design, India

2025

Design Management, graduate-level course (50 course hours)

• Taught a class of 95 students marketing frameworks and social media marketing.

## Visiting Faculty, School of Management, PDEU, India

2024

E-business, graduate-level course (36 course hours)

- Instructor evaluation: 4.76/5 for student satisfaction and 4.8/5 for instructor domain knowledge
- Taught a class of 65 students network effects, digital transformation, E-commerce platforms, and digital marketing

#### Academic Assistant, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

2022-23

Marketing-II (PGP Core), Research Methodology–II (PhD Core) & Strategic Marketing (PGP Elective)

Prepared course material, assisted students and faculty members, and evaluated student submissions

## Professional Experience

## Co-founder and Marketing Director, Kenstel Networks

2018-20

- Developed the brand Kefi as 100% Made-in-India Mesh Wi-Fi product for Indian consumers
- Launched Kefi consumer app for consumers of Kefi Mesh Wi-Fi.
- Conceptualized product design and packaging strategy by analyzing consumer onboarding journey.
- Ideated and executed a comprehensive, multi-channel sales and distribution strategy
- Identified key market segments and **expanded the product's reach across various platforms** such as Amazon & Flipkart.
- Achieved 5.4 Cr. Sales and spearheaded partnerships with retail distributors to ensure product availability.
- Orchestrated a detailed partner program for the brand Kenstel, onboarding 15 partners over a period of 6 months
- Managed a cross-functional team of developers & UX designers in the creation of the mobile app and online user interface for consumers and partners of Kefi.

#### Hindustan Unilever (Summer Intern)

2017

- Executed a <u>data-led adaptive infection alert system</u> based on geo targeting for the brand Lifebuoy in UP and Bihar to increase brand equity.
- **Designed an algorithm to identify infection threats** at a sub-district level to promote brand awareness
- Scripted and headed the OBD messaging for 21 communicable diseases, **enabling more than 8 million** weekly outreach calls.
- Achieved **cost reduction of 80%** by developing **a scalable media model** for the brand Lifebuoy

#### Consulting Projects

## One of the Largest Online Car Service Platform

2022-23

Devised and helped in the implementation of a strategy to increase customer retention by 37% and reduce platform leakage.

#### Food Delivery Startup

2023

Collaborated on market research and app design efforts. Recommended a strategy to increase customer acquisitions and targeting by 28%.

## Selected Conference Presentations

- Mitigating Platform Disintermediation: Introducing Human Agency of Online Service Platforms, **AMA** Summer Conference (Boston, USA), 2024
- Indirect Network Effects & Service Provider Churn, ANZMAC Conference, Hobart, Australia, 2024
- Kawaii Women- Empowered, Or, Entrapped?, ACR Conference, Paris, 2020

#### Service to the School and Field

- Conference Reviewer: ANZMAC 2024, Summer AMA 2024
- PhD Representative to Executive Committee of IIM A 2021-22