



## Predictive Analytics for Customer Service

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### Abstract

Every business leader would love to be able to predict the future. While there is no encompassing business “crystal ball,” there is predictive analytics. Predictive analytics is a transformative tool that enables businesses to anticipate future trends and make informed decisions based on historical data. Businesses can use predictive analytics to improve customer experience by analyzing customer behavior patterns. Predictive analytics operates on the principle that historical data contains valuable information about future events. Predictive analytics in customer service refers to the use of historical data, artificial intelligence, statistical algorithms, and machine learning to anticipate future customer behaviors, potential issues, and service needs. It helps you anticipate what customers need – before they ask. It is about using data to personalize support, resolve issues early, and boost customer satisfaction. In this paper, we will explore the transformative impact of predictive analytics on customer service.

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### 1. Introduction

The best businesses do not wait for problems to appear; they detect early signs and take action that smooths the customer’s journey. With that kind of proactive posture, it becomes easier to prepare, prioritize, and stay ahead of service demands. Predictive analytics in customer service makes this possible by uncovering patterns in existing data to anticipate customer needs before they turn into problems. By identifying patterns and spotting trends, it forecasts potential customer behaviors, issues, and needs. Instead of reacting to issues after they happen, support teams can now use data to anticipate what is coming next <sup>[1]</sup>.

Traditional analytics tell you what happened. Predictive analytics inform you what is going to happen. Companies concerned with how their customers will behave in the future have been using predictive analytics to achieve speed, intelligence, and advantage along their supply chains. Predictive analytics analyze historical customer data to identify patterns and trends. In industries such as customer service, predictive analytics plays a crucial role in anticipating and understanding patterns, enabling businesses to make informed decisions and take proactive measures. Integrating predictive analytics into customer service can significantly enhance a company’s ability to anticipate customer needs, leading to a more efficient and effective customer service strategy. Predictive customer analytics is important because it helps businesses forecast customer behaviors, anticipate needs, and take proactive actions to improve satisfaction and retention <sup>[2]</sup>.

### 2. Methodology

The study utilized a qualitative research method alongside a literature review. This approach allowed us to explore the relationship between predictive analytics and customer service performance. Additionally, it offers valuable insights into how organizations leverage predictive analytics to enhance customer support and service operations. By employing this method, the researchers gathered data from a variety of sources, including peer-reviewed scholarly journals and other significant resources.

### 3. Literature Review

#### 3.1. Predictive Analytics Customer Service

The section highlights review of the existing literature on predictive analytics in customer service.

As the name implies, predictive analytics is about predicting future trends, such as sales demand and exchange rates, and other important metrics. The technique relies on applying statistical modeling and regression analysis to historical data to determine and understand trends and to formulate future

trends. Strictly speaking, predictive analytics does not predict the future but rather uses probability theories to determine what is likely to happen based on patterns and trends revealed by analyzing historical data <sup>[3]</sup>. Predictive analytics accurately anticipates customer demand, preventing overstocking and stockouts while adapting to market changes. Figure 1 illustrates predictive analytics <sup>[4]</sup>, while Figure 2 shows its components <sup>[5]</sup>.



Fig 1: Predictive analytics <sup>[4]</sup>.



Fig 2: Different components of predictive analytics <sup>[5]</sup>.

In general, analytics provides an efficient way to improve planning by giving you better forecasts. There are different types of data analytics. They are briefly explained as follows <sup>[6]</sup>

In the literature review, descriptive analytics examines what has happened over the years. They are capable of detecting trends in historical data. Analytics can uncover trends and postulate probable reasons for change by comparing the same data from various periods. It is the industry baseline, which assesses past and current data to deliver more meaningful insights and empowers people to use their own intelligence and knowledge to make decisions. Predictive Analytics helps businesses anticipate what might happen and the impact of various situations, such as potential supply chain bottlenecks. Managers can be proactive rather than reactive by pushing them to evaluate these prospective circumstances before they occur. Predictive analytics may be used to identify patterns and trends as well as anticipate breakdowns that may impact suppliers and, consequently, production processes. Predictive

analytics for the supply chain leverages data, statistical algorithms, and machine learning techniques to identify the likelihood of future outcomes.

Prescriptive Analytics is a powerful way to build predictive analytics and dive deeper into predicting future insights and what can be done next. Prescriptive analytics uses the findings of descriptive and predictive analytics to recommend what measures a business should take to achieve its objectives. Because prescriptive analytics is increasingly complicated, they need more powerful software capable of rapidly processing and interpreting large amounts of data.

On the other hand, cognitive analytics attempts to mimic human thought and behavior and can assist companies in addressing complex, challenging problems. Cognitive analytics does this by leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), which enables it to improve over time. With the use of AI in the industry, it is possible to answer complex questions and draw out contextual conclusions on how humans would have interacted with the situation. It helps with more meaningful

data and scale experience and knowledge with better decisions.

However, diagnostic analytics enables the identification of the root cause. It is characterized by techniques such as drill-down, data discovery, data mining, and correlations. It involves analyzing overall performance and figuring out why

errors, mistakes, and delays occur. It lets the manager know about delays, breakdowns, and disruptions in the demand and supply processes, along with the reasons behind them.

Figure 3 shows these major types of data analytics [7]. Placing them together,

Descriptive → Diagnostic → Predictive → Prescriptive

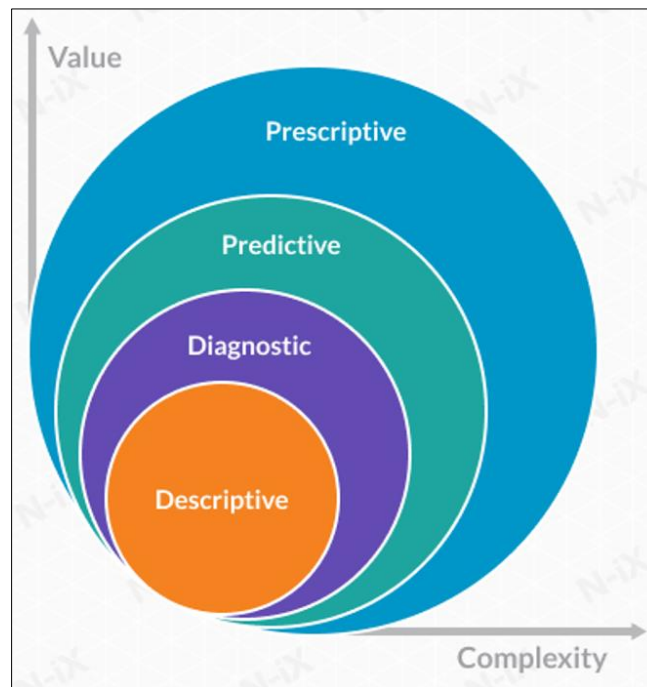


Fig 3: Types of data analytics [7].

Every step of ascending adds another level of depth, which is part of making that fugue out of just the mere frame of reference of the past to the bottom of dreaming about the future with certainty [8]. Unlike diagnostic and descriptive analytics, which were designed to analyze situations after they happened, predictive analytics utilizes advanced data analytics techniques to forecast future outcomes. In the

supply chain, the time has come to shift from mere descriptive and diagnostic analytics to predictive and prescriptive analytics. Predictive analytics is a branch of data analytics that uses historical data, along with statistical modeling, data mining, and machine learning, to predict future outcomes. Figure 4 shows the evolution of predictive analytics [2].

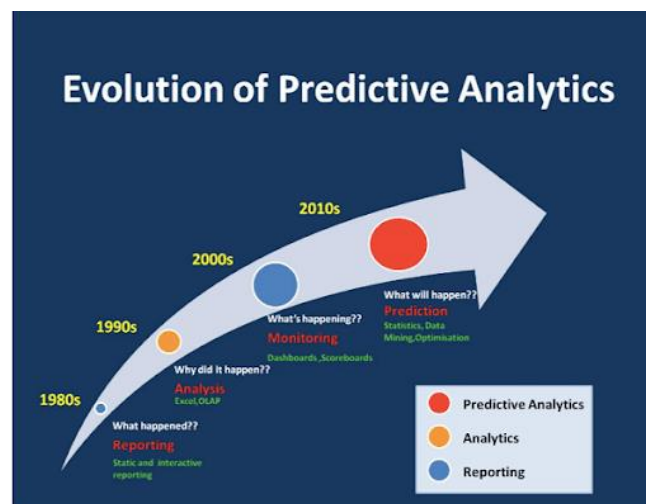


Fig 4: Evolution of predictive analytics [2].

### 3.2. Predictive Analytics in Customer Service

In today's competitive business landscape, delivering exceptional customer service has become more crucial than ever. With consumers having a myriad of options at their fingertips, companies must find innovative ways to stand out

and cater to their customers' ever-evolving needs. This is where the power of predictive analytics in customer service comes into play. It is more than a new methodology; it is a fundamental redefinition of the relationship between a company and its customers, a final evolution from

transactional problem-solving to proactive partnership. By leveraging the vast amount of available data, businesses can gain valuable insights into customer behavior, preferences, and potential issues, enabling them to predict and proactively address customer needs. Predictive analytics is helping

customer service move from reactive support to proactive solutions. By analyzing past interactions, teams can anticipate issues, reduce resolution time, and improve customer satisfaction. Figure 5 shows some customer service professionals <sup>[9]</sup>.



**Fig 5:** Some customer service professionals <sup>[9]</sup>.

Predictive analytics in customer service is an advanced data analysis technique that extracts meaningful insights from past data to predict future events. Predictive service models rely on behavioral preferences rather than marketing ones, like how quickly a customer expects a reply, how often they escalate, or whether they prefer human or digital help. They empower businesses to anticipate customer needs, enhance personalization, and streamline operations, ultimately improving customer satisfaction and loyalty. Embracing predictive analytics for customer retention and predictive customer satisfaction analysis is not just a competitive advantage; it is a necessity for businesses focused on shaping the future of predictive customer analytics experiences <sup>[10]</sup>.

### 3.3. Application of Predictive Analytics in customer Services

Predictive analytics is the process of using historical data, statistical models, and machine learning to forecast future events, behaviors, or trends. It is already making waves in customer service, offering innovative ways to enhance customer experience and streamline operations. Common applications include the following <sup>[1,11-14]</sup>:

Applications of predictive analytics in customer service span many areas of healthcare. Healthcare customer support teams deal with appointment scheduling, claims processing, eligibility checks, and coverage questions. Predictive analytics helps anticipate peak inquiry periods and common patient concerns, enabling faster access to accurate, approved information while reducing operational strain. It also helps forecast ticket volume, optimize self-service content, and proactively address common issues during peak shopping periods, improving customer experience while controlling costs.

Other areas are also found in e-commerce. When a customer browses or purchases items on an online platform, predictive analytics gather valuable data, including past purchases, browsing history, items frequently bought together, product reviews and ratings, cart additions, and wish lists. Another important area is telecommunications. Telecom providers manage high volumes of service requests for network

outages, billing issues, and plan changes. Predictive analytics helps forecast service disruptions and customer inquiries, enabling support teams to prepare knowledge and responses in advance. When a customer uses a telecom service, predictive models collect valuable data, such as call and data usage patterns, customer service interactions, payment history, billing issues, network performance in the user's location, and feedback from surveys or social media.

Marketing is another strategic area for predictive analytics. For example, predictive analysis of market trends and typical business struggles enables targeted messaging and marketing to the right prospects at the right time. Sales are more important to a business than anything else. Empowering sales efforts through trending and predictive metrics means you will end up with hot leads and interesting offerings. Additionally, financial services benefit significantly from predictive analytics. When a customer interacts with a financial institution, predictive analytics collect valuable data, including transaction history and spending patterns; login behavior and device usage; location data and travel activity; past fraud alerts and resolution outcomes; and customer support queries and feedback.

Demand Prediction or predictive models can forecast future demand based on historical sales data, seasonal trends, and market conditions. This helps businesses plan inventory levels, optimize supply chains, and reduce stockouts and overstock. Further, we see more value in predictive analytics for customer support. Customers expect instant, accurate answers across channels, while support teams struggle with rising ticket volumes, complex queries, and limited time to respond. For decades, customer support has been treated as a defensive necessity, a cost center designed solely to resolve issues after they arise.

To drive growth, companies should transform customer support from reactive to predictive and proactive. Predictive analytics helps customer support teams anticipate customer issues, reduce resolution time, and deliver more consistent service. Predictive models identify early warning signals such as repeated contacts, unresolved searches, or rising ticket frequency. This allows support teams to act before

issues escalate, helping prevent complaints, negative reviews, or customer churn. Customer education is of great importance for predictive analytics. Customer education can be regarded as a strategic initiative that aims to equip customers with the knowledge and skills to use a service or product effectively. Customer education also has traditionally been viewed as a way to generate value for customers; it plays an important role in enhancing customer satisfaction and developing customer expertise. It has proven to be an effective retention method in organizations. Likewise, predictive analytics plays a role in customer retention.

Predictive analytics is a powerful tool for customer retention. By analyzing historical data and customer behavior patterns, businesses can identify customers at risk of leaving and take

proactive steps to reduce customer attrition. Predictive analysis provides all the essential details about your customers. With an extensive customer base and limited combined customer data, it can be difficult to identify which customers deliver the most value to your brand. Using predictive analytics, you can predict the lifetime value of specific customer segments. Figure 6 shows how predictive analytics can improve customer retention <sup>[15]</sup>. Finally, customer Sentiment is key from a media perspective. Sentiment analysis uses predictive analytics to analyze customer feedback and sentiment from social media, reviews, and surveys. By understanding customer sentiment, businesses can identify areas for improvement and promptly address any issues or concerns.



**Fig 6:** Different ways predictive analytics improves customer retention <sup>[15]</sup>.

## 4. Discussions of Benefits and Challenges

### 4.1. The Benefits

Predictive analytics for customer service is transforming how businesses approach customer service. Predictive analytics in customer service is a transformative tool that delivers numerous benefits, positively impacting both businesses and their customers. Besides operational efficiency, predictive analytics delivers tangible ROI. Predictive insights reduce agents' cognitive load by guiding them toward the most relevant knowledge and next steps. Other benefits include the following <sup>[2, 16]</sup>:

It is important to note that Automation is one key area in predictive analytics. It is the gateway to Automation and AI-powered decision-making. AI-driven customer support has led to higher customer satisfaction, improved retention, and reduced operational costs by automating repetitive tasks and enabling proactive service. Automation can reduce mundane tasks, freeing up support professionals to address more complex client issues. Furthermore, there are cost savings. For instance, operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness are crucial aspects of any business. Predictive analytics achieves this by optimizing resource allocation. The study shows that predictive analytics enables marketers to make data-driven decisions, facilitating well-informed decision-making. Instead of relying on intuition or lagging metrics, customer experience leaders gain forward-looking insights. Predictive analytics helps prioritize initiatives, measure risk, and make informed decisions that align with customer expectations and business goals. It also helps to achieve customer Satisfaction. Customer satisfaction is the cornerstone of any successful business. Predictive analytics plays a pivotal role in elevating satisfaction levels by

anticipating customer needs.

Personalized Support is another important aspect for predictive analytics. The research shows that *personalization* constitutes the pinnacle of contemporary marketing, and predictive analytics is instrumental in its realization. It is the key to creating meaningful and lasting customer relationships. Predictive analytics can be used to personalize the customer's experience. By analyzing a customer's past behavior and preferences, businesses can anticipate the customer's needs and provide personalized recommendations. Customer expectations have permanently changed. The new standard set by digital leaders has created a powerful demand for proactive personalization. Predictive customer analytics enables businesses to create highly personalized customer experiences. It helps support teams quickly identify customer needs and suggests the most relevant solutions based on past behavior and interactions. Businesses must adopt customer-first approaches to leverage data-driven insights and deliver a tailored experience. Other positive areas include continuous improvement. The integration of predictive analytics into customer service is an iterative process. Regularly updating and refining predictive models ensures that businesses stay attuned to evolving customer preferences and market dynamics. This continuous improvement loop is crucial for maintaining the effectiveness of predictive analytics in customer service. Furthermore, customer feedback can be achieved. Feedback from customers, whether collected through surveys or online reviews, serves as a rich source of data for understanding customer sentiment and identifying areas for improvement, thereby enhancing predictive analytics and customer experience.

Importantly, enhanced communication is a great gain. Predictive analytics in customer service enables targeted, personalized communication, ensuring customers receive relevant information, promotions, and Support, thereby fostering a stronger emotional connection with the brand. Businesses can craft targeted marketing messages and communication strategies, ensuring that customers receive information that resonates with their specific needs and interests, enhancing predictive customer service.

#### 4.2. Challenges

Despite the benefits, implementing predictive analytics in customer service poses challenges. The more data a business collects, the greater the risk of a data breach. Predictive analytics systems must have robust security measures in place to safeguard against unauthorized access. Data quality, data privacy, model interpretability, ethical concerns, and transparency remain key challenges. Other challenges include the following <sup>[2, 16]</sup>:

The study shows that integrating predictive analytics systems often entails substantial upfront costs. Additionally, ongoing maintenance and updates require dedicated resources. Businesses need to carefully assess the financial implications and allocate resources effectively to ensure a smooth integration process into their predictive analytics customer experience strategies. Others include information overload. The Internet has flooded consumers with information. They now research extensively before making decisions, from choosing a restaurant for dinner to investing in high-value products. This translates to a more informed and discerning customer base.

The key to security is data privacy. Predictive analytics of customer experience relies heavily on customer data. Ensuring the privacy and security of this information is paramount. Customers are increasingly concerned about how their data is being used. Businesses must implement robust data protection measures to build and maintain trust in their predictive customer service efforts. They must prioritize the security and privacy of customer data. They should implement robust cybersecurity measures and adhere to data protection regulations to build customer trust and ensure Compliance with their predictive customer service initiatives. Data quality is an important element as raw data is often incomplete, inconsistent, or noisy. Data cleaning removes errors and inconsistencies, while data preparation ensures data is structured and formatted correctly for analysis. The effectiveness of predictive analytics of customer service relies heavily on the quality and diversity of the data it analyzes. Predictive models are only as good as the data they can access, so ensuring your data is clean and unified is the non-negotiable first step. Maintain data accuracy by implementing rigorous quality control measures.

Data Bias can result in predictive customer analytics models that are only as good as the data they are trained on. If historical data contains biases, the predictive models may perpetuate those biases. This can result in unfair treatment of certain customer segments. Regular audits are necessary to identify and address biases in models, ensuring fair predictive analytics in customer service.

Ensuring ethical concerns are paramount in predictive analytics is imperative. The ethical implications of using predictive analytics in customer service cannot be overlooked. Businesses must prioritize fairness and transparency in their algorithms. Clear communication with

customers about how their data is used and ensuring that predictive models do not discriminate are essential ethical considerations in predictive analytics customer experience.

Addressing issues such as integration is very useful. Many businesses have legacy systems in place, and integrating predictive analytics with these systems can be challenging. Compatibility issues may arise, leading to delays in implementation. Businesses need a well-thought-out integration strategy to overcome these challenges in their predictive customer service frameworks. Integrating predictive systems with existing IT infrastructure and customer relationship management platforms can be complex and costly.

Regulatory Compliance and frameworks are so important that they must be achieved. Various data protection regulations, such as GDPR and CCPA, impose strict guidelines on how customer data is collected, processed, and stored. Adhering to these regulations is not only a legal requirement but also essential for maintaining ethical standards in predictive analytics and customer service practices.

#### 5. Results

The paper's findings indicate that predictive analytics significantly improve customer satisfaction by enabling organizations to anticipate customer needs and deliver personalized services. The proactive approach enhances customer experience and satisfaction levels. Further, organizations identify customers who are likely to discontinue services. By analyzing behavioral patterns, businesses can implement retention strategies and reduce customer churn. The results show that predictive analytics enable businesses to deliver personalized services based on customer preferences and behavior.

Additionally, it improves customer engagement and trust. It also shows that organizations need to respond faster to customer issues, thereby improving efficiency and service quality. Faster response time is strongly associated with higher customer satisfaction. supports better decision-making by providing insights into customer behavior and future trends.

Furthermore, organizations can forecast demand and improve delivery services, thereby significantly improving resource allocation. For example, organizations can use predictive analytics to forecast peak service periods and allocate resources efficiently. It also reduces waiting times and operational costs. Other results include proactive problem resolution and increased customer loyalty. It enables organizations to detect potential issues before they occur, allowing proactive solutions rather than reactive responses. Improved service delivery and personalized interactions contribute to increased customer loyalty and long-term relationships. <sup>[17, 21]</sup>

#### 6. Future of Predictive Analytics in Customer Service

In an era where one step ahead can mean everything, such foresight is not just good – it is necessary. Predictive analytics is a powerful technology that enables organizations to use big data to predict future events, trends, and behaviors. It uses statistical algorithms and machine learning approaches to predict likely future patterns, events, and behaviors based on historical data. It is used by an increasing number of industries, including marketing, finance, retail, and healthcare, to understand customer behavior and preferences better. Analytics based on predicting customer behavior aims

to forecast future customer behavior using businesses' customer data. This approach enables a better understanding of customer needs, optimizes marketing and sales strategies, and increases customer satisfaction <sup>[22]</sup>.

The future of customer service is not reactive; it is predictive. Predictive analytics empowers businesses to anticipate needs before they arise, using data-driven insights for timely, personalized Support. Emerging trends, such as AI and hyper-personalization, are poised to further enhance the capabilities of predictive analytics and AI in customer service, driving more responsive, responsible, and human-like interactions. The integration of predictive analytics and AI in customer service is no longer just a technological innovation but a strategic imperative. The beauty of future analytics is that it enables leaders to make quick, informed decisions before the problem arises.

## 7. Conclusion

In an increasingly data-driven world, predictive analytics has emerged as a powerful tool that enables businesses to anticipate future trends and behaviors. Customer service has long been a reactive function: resolving tickets, handling escalations, and managing peak loads only after they occur. Predictive analytics changes that equation. It uses time-series and machine learning models to analyze historical ticket volumes and forecast future demand. It does not just forecast demand; it ensures the right resources are in the right place at the right time.

Predictive analytics is a gamechanger for customer service. Predictive analytics in customer service uses data from past support interactions, including tickets, chat logs, call transcripts, feedback, and agent actions, to identify trends and customer behaviors. Rather than waiting for tickets to pile up, predictive systems alert teams early, allowing better resource planning, faster resolution, and more informed decision-making. Predictive analytics helps your brand to anticipate customer needs, personalize interactions, and boost satisfaction. More information on integrating predictive analytics into customer service is available in the books <sup>[23-27]</sup>.

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