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MARKETING STRATEGY IN THE SPHERE OF SERVICES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN: METHODOLOGICAL ASPECT

МАРКЕТИНГОВАЯ СТРАТЕГИЯ В СФЕРЕ УСЛУГ РЕСПУБЛИКИ УЗБЕКИСТАН: МЕТОДОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ АСПЕКТ

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Abstract. This paper reviews the methodological aspects of shaping marketing strategy in service sector. In addition, in order to classify main types of marketing, there has been provided the review of theoretical and empirical literature on the subject. Review has shown that there are vast variety of factors such as social environment, market constraints, people's behavior, time perspective, managers' focus, market structure, degree of societies advancement, and etc. which can influence on shaping marketing strategy.

Аннотация. Рассматриваются методологические аспекты формирования маркетинговой стратегии в сфере услуг. Для классификации основных видов маркетинга был представлен обзор теоретической и эмпирической литературы по этому вопросу.

Обзор показал, что существует множество различных факторов, таких как социальная среда, рыночные ограничения, поведение людей, перспективы времени, концентрация менеджеров, структура рынка, степень развития общества, которые могут влиять на формирование маркетинговой стратегии.

Keywords: marketing strategy, marketing in service sector, marketing of services in Uzbekistan, comparison of marketing strategies.

Ключевые слова: маркетинговая стратегия, маркетинг в сфере услуг, маркетинг услуг в Узбекистане, сравнение маркетинговых стратегий.

Introduction

Uzbekistan's Five-Area Development Strategy for 2017-2021 stipulates the need to "Enhance the competitiveness of the national economy by deepening structural transformations, modernizing and diversifying its leading industries: increasing the share of industry and services in its structure." The service sector is currently undergoing serious transformations, when the traditional methods of doing business are replaced by new ones, such as information and communication technologies, tourism, consulting, recruiting, etc. Introduction of more and more advanced technologies into the service processes and carefully designed service systems which meets the needs of consumers, serves for the growth of competitiveness of companies in new industrial and regional service markets.

Literature review

Applying an evolutionary metaphor as a framework, Fisk R. P. [2] drew the evolution of the service marketing literature from its emergent starts in 1953 to its maturity in 1993. They recognized three stages in this evolution: Most of the experts defined the function of technology in developing marketing as a method that the service marketing field should take in the future. Lashoff Berry [3], Ben Schneider [6], and Valarie Zeithaml consider the implications of the Internet in special and technology in overall for services marketing and service quality as a fertile ground for emerging investigations. Steve Brown points out that technology is the important reason that has and will influence the future of services marketing. More precisely, Mary Jo Bitner, Christopher Lovelock [4], and Parsu Parasuraman also define the research of service in the case of Internet-delivered services and associated implication issues as an under-researched topic as well as the study of the role of technology in developing how services are delivered, communicated, sold, and supported. David Bowen and Christopher Lovelock acknowledge that e-commerce and virtual service encounter need to be better understood. Evert Gummesson would like to see more research on the high-tech high-touch concept. Global services marketing and the impact of cultural differences in customers' needs for service is the second research method to be investigated in the future. Len Berry points out that global marketing of services is under-researched and that cultural differences in customers' expectations for service and service performance are not well understood. Among the under-researched topics, Mary Jo Bitner identifies the different issues related to the design and delivering of international services. David Bowen also identifies the area of cross-country, cross-cultural differences in service quality expectations and perceptions as a topic that needs more attention. Steve Brown calls for more cross-cultural research, especially due to the fall of the trade barriers within the European Union and the emergence of global service firms. How are services defined and how can they best be delivered in different cultures throughout the world is one of the questions that, according to Ben Schneider, should usefully be asked to bring a new twist to the international issue of services marketing. Until recently, the concept of service productivity has been theoretically underdeveloped [1]. Generally, transferring the traditional understanding of productivity from manufacturing and producing material goods to services is not very successful due to immateriality as well as intangibility of services [1]. Immateriality is connected with both the intangibility of the output, as well as the heterogeneity of services. Moreover, the integration and involvement of people in the value-adding processes is the main point to services [3]. This means that the customer is obviously a key factor for service providers, that must also somehow be connected and accounted for in the concept of services productivity. Nevertheless, it has contradictory points that the customer usually is not an integral part during value creation and the business processes known as a closed system [5]. This implies that the quality of both material products and business processes can neither be accepted nor be influenced by the customer during the value creation process.

Theoretical approaches to marketing strategies

Under the marketing concepts, services represent a huge variety of activities, works and occupations. In defining the service, Kotler notes "A service is an event, activity or benefit that one of the parties can offer to the other party and which is mostly intangible and does not lead to possessing of anything. The production of services may or may not be related to the product in its tangible form" [7]. Based on the research of the intra-organizational communication processes and

the concept of affairs marketing, Kotler suggested to distinguish three interrelated units in services marketing:

- organization, or top management, service firms;
- contact personnel of the service firm;
- consumers of services.

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- services include all economic benefits that cannot be attributed to agriculture or industrial production;
- the services include numerous and various actions aimed at various objects;
- these numerous and diverse actions refer to the existing official statistics to one class of economic goods;
- service — a flexible object whose boundaries are easily changed [12].

How are services defined and how can they best be delivered in different cultures throughout the world is one of the questions that, according to Ben Schneider, should usefully be asked to bring a new twist to the international issue of services marketing [13].

In order to effectively manage marketing in a service firm, the manager needs to develop three strategies aimed at these three links.

1. The strategy of traditional marketing is aimed at the link "consumer-organization" and is related to issues of pricing, communications and distribution channels.
2. The strategy of internal marketing is aimed at the "organization-personnel" link and is associated with staff motivation.
3. The strategy of interactive marketing — on the link "personal-consumer" and is associated with quality control of the provision of services.

The main component of the modern marketing structure is, first of all, foresight, that is strategies and plans on the basis of which the marketing activity is built.

Until recently, service organizations were inferior to firms in terms of the intensity of marketing use. Today, when competition increases, increase costs, while productivity and quality become key performance indicators, there is a need for more complex marketing decisions. Service organizations today faced with three main marketing challenges: they want to increase their

competitive differentiation, the quality of services and productivity. Marketing management is defined as "... analyzing, planning, implementation and monitoring the implementation of activities designed for establishing, strengthening and maintaining of profitable exchanges with target customers for achieving specific organizational goals such as profit, sales, market share etc. [7].

The marketing strategy represents the procedure for analyzing the potential of the company and its objective opportunity in the market, selecting the system of organization's goals, developing plans aimed at reducing risk and providing long-term and sustainable prosperity of the company. The main difference between a simple long-term plan and a strategy is that the strategy should create conditions under which the company will avoid problems in the market. Strategic marketing management includes the process of developing and maintaining the compliance of the strategy and the organizational and functional potential of the firm to external conditions and realized on the basis of the study of the need. The main task solved in the framework of strategic marketing is the orientation of the enterprise in the external environment [7].

There are many different types of marketing strategies, each has its own mission in the enterprise. Let's compare some of them (Table 1).

Table 1.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF MARKETING STRATEGIES

<i>№</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Content</i>
1	Organization's Growth Strategy	It is medium-term prospect of organization's activity. By planning growth, first of all, revealed the appropriateness of acquisitions or internal development
2	Strategy for internal development	This strategy implies penetration of the market, and contributes for the expansion of markets and development of products
3	Penetration strategy	Presents already existing brands to the market with making allowance to existing markets
4	Market expansion strategy	Assumes the promotion of goods and services to new markets
5	Product development strategy	Provides emergency or expansion of existing goods or services, mainly in the existing market
6	Strategies for external acquisitions	Comprises of company's growth strategy based on internal development and growth strategy through external acquisitions

Source: Classified by the author.

Marketing strategy is one of the main components of the overall strategy of the organization, growth of the enterprise, its prospects, and sometimes its existence. The base of the strategy, aimed at achieving established goals is based on selection of the target segment or market segments and distinctive advantages. These two elements constitute a strategy for positioning a firm or brand.

A marketing strategy is a plan, which can be modified as situations progress. It is the strategic plan that allows the company to define its specific goals, objectives, that it seeks and how to develop.

The starting point of designing a marketing strategy is the analysis of market development and forecasting of further development of the market environment. It includes: macro segmentation and micro-segmentation, that is, an assessment of the competitive advantages and competitiveness of the company, its products and services on the market, an assessment of the attractiveness of selected product markets and their individual segments, the possibility of expanding the geography of sales.

Thus, strategic management involves implementation of a strategic marketing plan that includes the benchmarks for the organization's long-term prosperity and the entire range of products and services provided. Having chosen the target market and strategy of its coverage, it is necessary to implement the procedure for positioning its services. Positioning services is an action that completes a set of actions to ensure the competitiveness of their services by choosing the most effective type of marketing behaviour in specific conditions [14].

One of the main principles of strategic marketing of the service sector is the principle of complexity, which regards it as a systemic unity of actions carried out in the following areas:

-improvement of services and enrichment of the assortment line through the constant development and introduction of new types of services;

-realization of price policy with the aim of balancing supply and demand;

-improving methods and methods of marketing services;

- establishment of appropriate proportionality in the use of different distribution channels;

-improvement of communication links with the consumer in order to stimulate sales of services and effective use of means of advertising impact [15].

The operation of this principle, traditional for strategic planning in general, has a specific essence in the marketing of services. In this area there is an advantage of the territorial aspect over the sectoral aspect, since the demand for services is formed mainly under the influence of territorial features in the way of life of the population and its territorial structure, and the marketing task is to bring the development of service industries in line with existing demand.

The strategy of promotion of services consists of four means of influencing the consumer:

–advertising;

–methods of sales promotion;

–publicity and public relations;

–technologies of personal sales.

In the marketing of services, there is a system of strategic planning, which also has some peculiarities. The sequence of planning stages and promotion strategies are similar both for the manufacturing sector and for the service sector. They include determining the objectives of promotion, selecting target audiences and determining the budget for each of the four means of impact on the consumer. However, in view of the distinctive characteristics of the service as a commodity, the content of these stages significantly differs while planning a promotion strategy in marketing services. The main difference is in strategic focus of the promotion strategy for goods and services.

Marketing of services in Uzbekistan

In order to ensure balanced development and diversification of the activity of service enterprises, raising competitiveness and quality of their services, there were adopted Resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "About the program of development of the services sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2012-2016", and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "About the program for the development of the services sector for 2016-2020" and etc.

Among the main driving factors of competition in the domestic services market, following are distinguished (Table 2).

Table 2.

CLASSIFICATION OF COMPETITIVE FACTORS
 IN THE SERVICES MARKET OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

<i>Title</i>	<i>Content</i>
Growth of the number of economic entities	Growth in quantity of economic entities in the banking, insurance, and trade spheres objectively leads to the expansion of product supply in the services sectors, which compete with each other.
Liberalization of prices and the transformation of the economy	The abolition of direct price controls on wholesale and retail prices has become a stimulus to the price competition. The development of the business environment is reflected in the stabilization of the profitability of the business, which in turn leads to increased competition.
Liberalization of foreign economic relations	This led to appearance in the domestic market of new foreign competitors, which have extensive experience and knowledge in the field of competition.
Structural reorganization of the industrial markets	The advancing growth of the services sector, as well as the profitability of trade and financial operations, also influenced the intensification of competition.
Provision of convertibility of national currency	The transition to convertibility of the national currency had great impact for the development of competition processes. The most benefits from the convertibility of sums have gained mainly businesses operating for the export, as well as companies with foreign capital participation due to price competition and the relatively high quality of the goods and services offered.
Formation of the private sector of the economy	The private sector of the economy creates additional conditions for the development of competition and in many branches of the service sector begins to play a dominant role (trade, mobile communications, insurance, tourism, etc.).
Demonopolization of the economy and development of competition	Privatization of state organizations, industrial and regional demonopolization programs, state regulation of natural monopolies, stimulation of the development of small businesses and private entrepreneurship, and other measures leads to increased competition in the services market.
Institutional reforms	Creation and development of market institutions of stock-exchanges, banks, insurance companies, IT companies and other organizations - contributed to the formation of market infrastructure and exacerbated competition in the services sector.

Source: Compiled by the author

Priority directions and tasks in development of the service sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2016-2020 were set:

- raising GDP through development of the services sector, and bringing its share in the national economy up to 48.7 percent;
- raising volume of services in rural areas by 1.8 times by 2020;
- creation of conditions for accelerated development of the service sector, structural reforms through the expansion of engineering, communication, road and transport infrastructure, introduction of modern information and communication technologies in the sectors;
- shaping competitive environment, assistance to the development of small and private business entities;
- expansion of various innovative services, new communication facilities;
- provision of technical accessibility of the population to the telecommunications network, providing quality services on their basis, complete transition to digital telephone communication and television systems, bringing the share of communication and information services in the economy up to 2.5 percent by year 2020;

- the development of financial services with the introduction of the newest electronic payment technologies;
- further development of high-tech in healthcare services.

The development of services sector in Uzbekistan causes an increase in the share of services in the GDP and growth of competition in the services market.

As a result of targeted, comprehensive measures on diversification and structural transformation of the economy, the share of services in GDP increased from 38.7 percent in 2005 to 45.2 percent in 2016. Modern high-tech and market-oriented types of services-information-communication, banking, insurance, leasing, tourist-excursion and others are developing at an accelerating rate (1).

Conclusion

The services sector and service as a rather complex social phenomenon are objects of study of various sciences: economics, marketing, management, sociology, law, informatics, psychology and others. Within the framework of research paradigms, each of which actualizes certain aspects of services, that are most significant for a particular scientific field, principles and technologies for interaction between the producer and consumer of the service are developed, and effective mechanisms for such interaction are identified. However, it should be noted that at present there is no complete theory of services that would systematize existing methodological and practical approaches to the study and management of this field. In this case, there are basically formulated a number of theoretical provisions that illuminate the phenomenon under study from different points of view. The development of a holistic theory of services would help to solve not only the theoretical and methodological problems that occur in this field, but also many practical questions that are determined by the specifics of the service as a commodity. These features often do not allow us to apply regulatory and legal documents to the service sector, which are quite effectively used to regulate commodity-money relations in the markets of traditional goods.

In this regard, it seems relevant and important to develop the methodological foundations of strategic marketing in the service sector, which could become a unifying principle of research in different subject areas and be, including a base for developing effective management mechanisms in the service sector.

Given the features of the service, we can distinguish the following characteristics of its provision:

- requirements for the service should be clearly defined as characteristics that can be monitored and evaluated by the consumer;
- in most cases, service management and service delivery characteristics can only be achieved by providing management of the service delivery process.

The characteristic of a service or its delivery process can be quantified (measured) or qualitatively expressed (subject to quality comparison), depending on how and by whom the assessment is made by the service organization or the consumer.

Technological features of production of services are directly interrelated with the problems of the formation and establishment of standardization systems. The issues of unification, standardization and certification with regard to services can be attributed to the most difficult to develop. In modern publications devoted to services, a lot of attention is paid to quality management, the quality of service models are given, the stages of quality measurement are

described using different techniques, but the question of what is the quality of the service is still topical.

Thus, the object of the methodology of strategic shadowing of the service sector should be the service itself, considered as a specific commodity and an object of economic activity with special properties; The subject is a complex of economic, managerial, organizational, financial, social relations arising in the process of production, promotion and consumption of the service. Subjects are both physical and legal entities involved in the process of socio-economic relations in the service sector.

Source:

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