

Business Case Study of COCA COLA vs PEPSI, THE BEVERAGE WAR

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Crystal Pepsi

- In 1992, Pepsico came up with crystal Pepsi, recorded a sell of \$474 million.
- Capture 2.4% of entire American soft drinks market.
- After 9 months, they have to withdraw from market.
- A big failure.

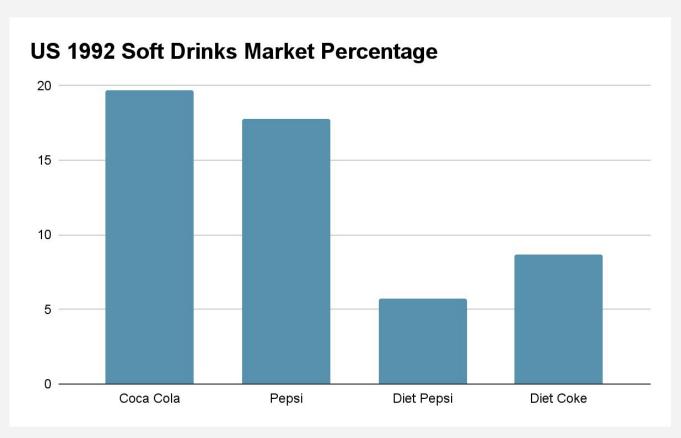
Crystal Pepsi



Clear Craze

- Any new product with clean nand transparent color was thought to be a cool product.
- Crystal Pepsi was launched in 9 months, whereas other products are launched in 3 years time.

Market Share



3 Year Period of Product Launch

- Product market
- Lab test
- Sample audience test
- Supply chain design
- Marketing campaigns
- Product launch

Super Bowl Competition

- 2021 super bowl competition ads delivered an average return on investment of \$4.60 per \$1, with many brands receiving double digits.
- In 2023, 30 second super bowl commercial ad costs a record high average of \$7 million.

Super Bowl Competition



What went wrong with Crystal Pepsi?

- Bottling issue.
- 7up is packaged in green bottles.
- Soft drinks contain some flavors and preservatives to break down or react with other ingredient leads to off flavors and odors.
- Made the drink smell and taste like shoe polish.
- Made a caffeine and preservative free clear soda that tastes like the original Pepsi.

What went wrong with Crystal Pepsi?

- After exposure to sunlight, the taste of drink became a little different.
- Incongruent drink, lack of consistency.
- There is a very dep relationship between the degree to which consumers can sense of a new product and the evaluation of a product.
- Congruence of people perception with the expectation of how product looks, feels, operates.

What went wrong with Crystal Pepsi?

- Crystal Pepsi was healthy, 12 ounce can of regular Pepsi had 150 calories.
- Crystal Pepsi came close to 130 calories.
- Caffeine free, but filled with high fructose corn syrup.
- Looked like a health drink, but did not taste or operate like a health drink.

Kamikaze Strategy by Coca Cola

- Decided to launch a product that would purposefully fail and while failing, it will also fail crystal pepsi.
- Coca Cola launched Tab Clear, version of clear soda.
- That made a confusion between consumers, about what a clear cola is supposed to be.
- Customers got a second option, split the market and difficult for crystal pepsi to survive.

Kamikaze Strategy by Coca Cola

Coca Cola launched this brand under the name Tab so that Coca
 Cola's brand name would not suffer.



Pepsico SWOT Analysis



Coca Cola SWOT Analysis



Business Lessons

- In the race of fast tracking the process of your product launch, you should never compromise on the fundamental qualities of your product.
- Clear product positioning was by far the most important step in marketing.
- If marketing is slightly confusing, please pull back all your campaigns, evaluate it, then roll it.

Business Lessons

- Marketing is used to convince people, not to confuse them,
- Confusion will kill your products in no time.
- Never stop yourself from failing miserably, only brave attempts lead to game changing inventions.
- World wll definitely call you fool, until you succeed. When you succeed, your success will be called as overnight success.