

Paper Summary

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Title: Managing social media recovery: The important role of service recovery transparency in retaining customers

Authors: Andreawan Honora, Wen-Hai Chih, Kai-Yu Wang

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jretconser.2021.102814>

Year: 2022

Publication Type: Journal

Discipline/Domain: Marketing / Consumer Services

Subdomain/Topic: Service recovery, social media transparency, customer forgiveness

Eligibility: Eligible

Overall Relevance Score: 90

Operationalization Score: 85

Contains Definition of Actionability: Yes (implicit — service recovery transparency is treated as actionable)

Contains Systematic Features/Dimensions: Yes

Contains Explainability: Yes

Contains Interpretability: Partial (implicit through transparency and clarity concepts)

Contains Framework/Model: Yes (conceptual model with mediation and moderation)

Operationalization Present: Yes

Primary Methodology: Mixed Methods (Survey + Experimental)

Study Context: Social media service recovery after service failures

Geographic/Institutional Context: Indonesia; National Dong Hwa University; Brock University

Target Users/Stakeholders: Service providers, customer service managers, social media teams

Primary Contribution Type: Empirical validation of conceptual model

CL: Yes

CR: Yes

FE: No

TI: No

EX: Yes

GA: Partial

Reason if Not Eligible: n/a

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****Discipline/Domain:**** Marketing / Consumer Services

****Subdomain/Topic:**** Service recovery, social media transparency, customer forgiveness

****Contextual Background:**** The paper investigates how transparency in handling customer complaints o

****Geographic/Institutional Context:**** Indonesia; National Dong Hwa University; Brock University

****Target Users/Stakeholders:**** Service providers, customer service managers, social media managers

****Primary Methodology:**** Mixed methods (Survey + Experiment)

****Primary Contribution Type:**** Empirical testing of conceptual model integrating transparency, forgiveness

General Summary of the Paper

The paper explores how *service recovery transparency* — making complaint-handling visible to all on s

Eligibility

Eligible for inclusion: ****Yes****

How Actionability is Understood

Actionability is conceptualized implicitly as the capacity of *service recovery transparency* to trigger custo

> “Service recovery transparency refers to the extent to which the responses of a service provider to its c

> “Providing transparent service recovery by handling complaints in the presence of others helps generat

What Makes Something Actionable

- Public visibility of complaint handling
- Honesty, clarity, accuracy, and openness in communication
- Creating positive emotional reactions (forgiveness) in customers
- Leveraging social influence via audience effects
- Incorporating emotional recovery elements (apology, explanation) when transparency is low

How Actionability is Achieved / Operationalized

- ****Framework/Approach Name(s):**** Conceptual mediation-moderation model linking transparency, forgiv
- ****Methods/Levers:**** Public replies on social media, offering sincere apologies, providing detailed explan
- ****Operational Steps / Workflow:****
 1. Identify and respond to complaints publicly where possible
 2. Include emotional recovery strategies if transparency is low or absent
 3. Monitor forgiveness and switching intentions as key outcomes

- **Data & Measures:** 7-point Likert scales for transparency, forgiveness, switchover intention, apology,
 - **Implementation Context:** Social media complaint handling
- > “Public response... enables other consumers access to complaints and allows them to view on social media”
- > “When an apology/explanation is absent, higher levels of service recovery transparency will be important for customer forgiveness”

Dimensions and Attributes of Actionability (Authors’ Perspective)

- **CL (Clarity):** Yes — “honesty, clarity, accuracy, and openness” as part of transparency (p. 2)
- **CR (Contextual Relevance):** Yes — recovery process visibility to other customers directly relevant to complaint
- **FE (Feasibility):** No explicit link to feasibility as part of actionability
- **TI (Timeliness):** Not explicitly linked to actionability in findings (though timeliness noted in prior literature)
- **EX (Explainability):** Yes — explanation moderates the effect of transparency on forgiveness (p. 4)
- **GA (Goal Alignment):** Partial — goal of retaining customers via forgiveness aligns with firm objectives
- **Other Dimensions Named by Authors:** Social presence effects; emotional recovery strategies

Theoretical or Conceptual Foundations

- Social influence theory (Latane, 1981)
- Emotional recovery vs. economic recovery distinction

Indicators or Metrics for Actionability

- Customer forgiveness score (Likert scale)
- Switchover intention score (Likert scale)
- Measured interaction effects of apology and explanation

Barriers and Enablers to Actionability

- **Barriers:** Absence of apology/explanation reduces forgiveness in low-transparency settings; chatbot responses
- **Enablers:** Public responses; sincerity; open explanations; alignment with customer expectations for transparency

Relation to Existing Literature

Extends prior social media recovery studies by focusing on emotional constructs (forgiveness) rather than economic recovery

Summary

This paper positions service recovery transparency as a critical, actionable element in social media complaint handling

Scores

- **Overall Relevance Score:** 90 — Clear conceptualization of transparency as actionable, explicit mediators
- **Operationalization Score:** 85 — Well-specified model, measured constructs, and actionable steps for implementation

Supporting Quotes from the Paper

- “Service recovery transparency refers to the extent to which the responses of a service provider to its customer complaints are visible to other customers”
- “The higher the level of service recovery transparency is, the higher the level of customer forgiveness is”

- “When an apology/explanation is absent, higher levels of service recovery transparency will be important”
- “Providing transparent service recovery... helps generate customer forgiveness, which... reduces switching intentions”

Actionability References to Other Papers

- Hogue et al., 2019; Schaefer & Schamari, 2016 — transparency in online recovery
- Wei et al., 2020 — emotional vs. economic recovery
- Latane, 1981 — social influence theory
- Wang et al., 2020 — public vs. private apologies