

Digital Advertising and Generation Z Online Spending in Indonesia's Emerging Market: The Moderating Role of Advertising Relevance

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ABSTRACT

Purpose - The rapid expansion of Indonesia's digital economy has intensified the strategic role of digital advertising in influencing consumer purchasing behavior, particularly among Generation Z consumers who actively engage with social media and e-commerce platforms. Although personalized and relevance-based advertising systems have become increasingly common, empirical evidence regarding how digital advertising effectiveness influences actual online spending behavior remains limited and inconsistent. This study therefore examines the effect of digital advertising effectiveness on Generation Z online spending behavior and investigates the moderating role of advertising relevance within Indonesia's emerging digital market.

Design/methodology/approach-This study employed a quantitative explanatory approach using a cross-sectional survey design. Data were collected from 420 Generation Z consumers aged 18–27 years who actively participated in online shopping activities. Data were analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) with SmartPLS 4. The conceptual framework was primarily grounded in the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) framework and supported by complementary insights from the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM).

Finding/Results - The findings indicate that digital advertising effectiveness positively and significantly influences online spending behavior and emerged as the strongest predictor in the model ($\beta = 0.364$, $p < 0.001$). Advertising relevance also demonstrated a significant direct effect ($\beta = 0.154$, $p < 0.001$) and strengthened the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online spending behavior ($\beta = 0.114$, $p = 0.003$). Digital literacy additionally contributed positively to online spending behavior ($\beta = 0.171$, $p < 0.001$). The structural model explained 27.8% of the variance in online spending behavior ($R^2 = 0.278$), indicating modest but meaningful explanatory capability.

Originality/Value - This study contributes to digital advertising and consumer behavior literature by demonstrating that advertising relevance functions both as a direct behavioral driver and as a contextual enhancer of digital advertising effectiveness in shaping Generation Z online spending behavior within an emerging market context. The findings also highlight the importance of personalization, contextual suitability, and consumer-oriented advertising strategies for improving digital engagement and purchasing outcomes.

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1. Introduction

The rapid progression of digital transformation has fundamentally altered modern economic structures, patterns of consumer behavior, and approaches to marketing communication in both advanced and developing markets. The extensive integration of internet-based technologies, mobile applications, artificial intelligence, and social commerce platforms has created opportunities for organizations to establish more individualized and data-oriented interactions with consumers within integrated digital environments. In recent years, digital advertising has emerged as a dominant mechanism in influencing consumer awareness, encouraging engagement, and driving purchasing decisions in online contexts. Consequently, companies have increasingly adopted digital advertising initiatives to expand market coverage, improve the quality of customer engagement, and strengthen purchasing outcomes amid intensifying competition within digital commerce ecosystems (Dwivedi et al., 2021; Jamil et al., 2022; Lou & Xie, 2021a; Tandon et al., 2021; Voorveld, 2021). Emerging economies have increasingly played a strategic role in accelerating the growth of global digital markets, driven by expanding internet accessibility, the rapid development of mobile commerce, and the proliferation of platform-oriented economic activities. Indonesia has positioned itself as one of the most dynamic and largest digital economies in Southeast Asia, supported by the continuous increase in the use of e-commerce services, digital payment mechanisms, and the integration of social media into daily consumption patterns. The advancement of digital infrastructure has generated substantial changes in consumer purchasing practices, particularly among younger population segments characterized by strong engagement with digital technologies. At the same time, the increasing prominence of online marketplace platforms including Shopee, Tokopedia, TikTok Shop, and Lazada has intensified competitive pressure on firms to design and implement digital advertising strategies that effectively shape consumer expenditure decisions (Chandra et al., 2022; Kusumasondjaja & Tjiptono, 2023; X. J. Lim et al., 2022; M. S. Rahman et al., 2022; Sanny et al., 2023).

Within the contemporary consumer landscape, Generation Z has become one of the most prominent and influential segments shaping the digital economy. Members of this generation developed within environments marked by extensive digital integration, constant internet connectivity, active social media participation, and widespread use of mobile communication technologies. As a result, their consumption patterns differ considerably from earlier generations, particularly in relation to online purchasing behavior, levels of digital interaction, and responses to advertising exposure. Previous research suggests that Generation Z consumers tend to favor advertising content that offers interactivity, strong visual appeal, personalization, and alignment with their daily lifestyles and personal interests. In contrast, advertising messages perceived as repetitive or lacking relevance are more likely to generate unfavorable reactions and receive limited attention from this demographic segment (Djafarova & Bowels, 2021; Francis & Hoelfell, 2020; Ul-Haq et al., 2026).

The growing recognition of digital advertising as a strategic business instrument has motivated extensive academic attention toward identifying the factors that determine advertising effectiveness within digital commercial contexts. In general, digital advertising effectiveness reflects the extent to which online promotional messages are capable of capturing consumer attention, encouraging interaction, strengthening purchase intention, and shaping subsequent behavioral responses. Within digital platforms, advertising performance is frequently linked to several key attributes, including the

quality of information provided, entertainment elements, emotional resonance, interactivity features, and the capacity to deliver personalized experiences. Contemporary studies further indicate that advertisements perceived as more effective are more likely to produce higher levels of consumer engagement and contribute to more positive purchasing behavior in online market environments (Fatima & Khan, 2022; J. Kim & Han, 2021; Lima et al., 2024; Saura et al., 2021; Shareef et al., 2021).

Although the implementation of digital advertising technologies continues to expand across markets, empirical evidence regarding their influence on consumer spending behavior remains inconclusive. A number of studies have identified a positive relationship between digital advertising and online purchasing activities, whereas other findings suggest that exposure to advertising alone does not necessarily produce substantial behavioral changes unless consumers consider the advertising content relevant to their personal needs and beneficial in decision-making processes. These differing results indicate that the effectiveness of digital advertising may be contingent upon additional contextual factors that can either reinforce or diminish consumer reactions to advertising exposure (J. Kim & Jeong, 2023; Liu et al., 2023; Lou & Xie, 2021b; Tran et al., 2022).

One of the factors that has gained increasing attention within digital marketing scholarship is advertising relevance. This concept describes consumers' perceptions regarding the extent to which advertising content corresponds with their individual needs, interests, preferences, and specific situational conditions. In increasingly competitive digital settings marked by excessive information exposure and algorithm-based content distribution, relevance has emerged as a crucial element influencing consumer engagement and overall advertising performance. Advertisements designed to reflect consumer behavior patterns and personal preferences tend to be more effective in establishing trust, fostering emotional attachment, and encouraging purchasing actions compared with standardized promotional content. Therefore, advertising relevance constitutes an important mechanism in determining how consumers interpret and respond to digital advertising initiatives (Dehghani et al., 2021; D. Y. Kim et al., 2021; Lin & Wang, 2022; Molinillo et al., 2021; Youn & Kim, 2022).

The strategic role of advertising relevance becomes increasingly apparent within social commerce environments and algorithm-oriented marketing systems. Modern digital platforms progressively employ artificial intelligence, machine learning technologies, and consumer analytics to distribute advertising content that is tailored to users' demographic characteristics and online behavioral patterns. Recommendation mechanisms based on algorithmic processes are developed to maximize the effectiveness of advertising exposure and enhance consumer interaction through more precise and targeted communication approaches. Existing studies indicate that advertising content perceived as relevant and personalized tends to generate positive outcomes, including stronger consumer trust, higher levels of online engagement, increased impulse purchasing tendencies, and greater satisfaction with digital shopping experiences, particularly among younger consumer groups (Godey et al., 2022; Huang & Rust, 2021; Koay et al., 2022; Lee & Kim, 2022; Qadri et al., 2026). From a theoretical standpoint, the association between digital advertising and consumer behavioral outcomes can be interpreted through the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) framework. This theoretical model explains that external environmental stimuli affect individuals' internal psychological processes, including cognitive and emotional conditions, which subsequently influence observable behavioral responses. Within the context of digital advertising, advertising effectiveness serves as an external stimulus that can shape

consumers' psychological assessments, perceptions, and emotional involvement before leading to behavioral consequences such as online spending decisions. Earlier empirical studies have widely adopted the SOR framework to explain various forms of digital consumer behavior, including engagement in social commerce activities and decision-making processes related to online purchasing (Hsu & Chen, 2021; Islam et al., 2021; Tuncer, 2021; Xu et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2021).

In addition to the SOR framework, the Technology Acceptance Model provides an important theoretical foundation for understanding how consumers respond to digital technologies and online advertising systems. TAM emphasizes that individuals' acceptance of digital systems is strongly influenced by perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. In digital advertising environments, consumers are more likely to engage with advertisements when the content is perceived as beneficial, relevant, informative, and easy to interact with. Previous studies have integrated the TAM into digital marketing and e-commerce research to explain online shopping behavior, mobile commerce adoption, and consumer interaction with personalized advertising systems (Lütjens et al., 2022; Nuryakin et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2022; Zhu & Li, 2023).

The present study is primarily grounded in the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) framework to explain how digital advertising stimuli influence consumer behavioral responses. Complementary insights from the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) are used only as an interpretive perspective to better understand how consumers evaluate digital experiences and advertising interaction. The integration of these theories is particularly relevant for understanding Generation Z consumers who frequently interact with algorithm-driven advertising ecosystems and digital commerce platforms (Arghashi & Yuksel, 2022; Bilgin, 2022; W. M. Lim et al., 2022).

Despite the substantial academic interest in digital advertising and consumer behavior in online environments, several critical areas remain insufficiently addressed in existing research. First, previous investigations have largely concentrated on outcomes such as purchase intention, online engagement, and click-through responses, with comparatively less attention given to actual online spending behavior. Second, empirical evidence examining the moderating influence of advertising relevance on the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online spending behavior remains limited. Third, the majority of existing studies have been conducted in developed market settings, whereas emerging economies such as Indonesia continue to receive relatively limited scholarly attention despite their accelerated digital economic expansion and growing adoption of social commerce platforms. Fourth, only a small number of studies have simultaneously incorporated the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) and Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) frameworks to explain digital advertising behavior among Generation Z consumers in emerging market environments (Bilgin, 2022; Jamil et al., 2022; Molinillo et al., 2021; Shareef et al., 2021; Tandon et al., 2021).

Accordingly, this study seeks to analyze the effect of digital advertising effectiveness on the online spending behavior of Generation Z consumers within Indonesia's evolving digital marketplace, while also evaluating the moderating influence of advertising relevance. To achieve this objective, the study combines the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) framework with the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) to explain the manner in which advertising-related stimuli and consumers' perceptions of technology collectively influence behavioral outcomes in digital commerce settings. Within the proposed conceptual

framework, digital advertising effectiveness is positioned as the independent variable, online spending behavior as the dependent variable, and advertising relevance as a moderating construct that may intensify the relationship between both variables.

From a theoretical standpoint, this study contributes to the development of digital advertising and consumer behavior literature by integrating SOR and TAM perspectives to explain Generation Z consumption behavior in digital environments. Empirically, the research provides evidence from Indonesia as one of Southeast Asia's largest and rapidly expanding emerging digital economies. From a practical perspective, the findings are expected to offer strategic insights for businesses, digital marketing practitioners, e-commerce providers, and policymakers concerning the importance of designing digital advertising strategies that are relevant, personalized, and oriented toward consumer needs in order to encourage online spending behavior among younger consumer segments.

Based on the theoretical arguments and empirical findings from previous studies, the following hypotheses are proposed:

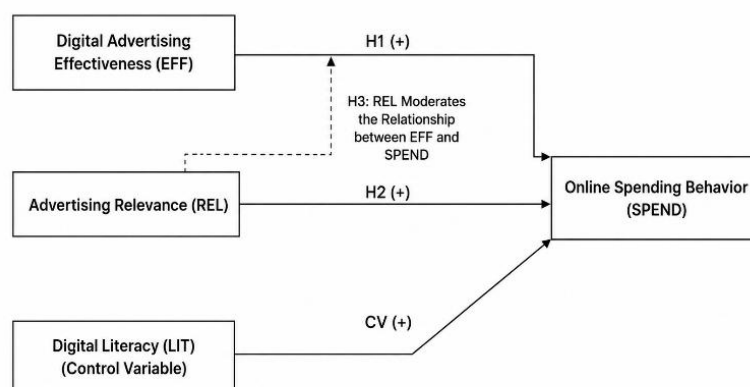
H1: Digital advertising effectiveness positively influences Generation Z online spending behavior.

H2: Advertising relevance positively influences Generation Z online spending behavior.

H3: Advertising relevance positively moderates the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and Generation Z online spending behavior.

Drawing upon the theoretical foundations and empirical limitations identified in previous literature, this study develops a conceptual framework to investigate the effect of digital advertising effectiveness on the online spending behavior of Generation Z consumers, while incorporating advertising relevance as a moderating construct. The proposed framework is established through the integration of complementary theoretical perspectives derived from the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) framework and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Figure 1 presents the conceptual model proposed in this research.

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework



H1: Digital advertising effectiveness positively influences online spending behavior.

H2: Advertising relevance positively influences online spending behavior.

H3: Advertising relevance positively moderates the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online spending behavior.

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Design

This research applied a quantitative explanatory design to investigate the causal associations among digital advertising effectiveness, advertising relevance, and the online spending behavior of Generation Z within Indonesia's developing digital economy. The quantitative explanatory method was selected because the objective of the study was to empirically validate theoretically derived relationships among latent variables through statistical analysis procedures. To provide a comprehensive explanation of consumer responses in digital environments, this study integrates the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) framework and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), emphasizing how digital advertising stimuli affect online spending behavior through consumers' internal assessments of advertising relevance. Furthermore, the study utilized a cross-sectional survey approach, where information was obtained from respondents during a single period of observation. The cross-sectional survey method has been extensively adopted in digital marketing and consumer behavior research due to its effectiveness in capturing consumer perceptions, attitudes, and behavioral reactions within online commercial settings in an efficient and systematic manner (Dwivedi et al., 2021; Hair et al., 2022; Jamil et al., 2022). Moreover, this research employed Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) using SmartPLS 4.0 as the analytical technique, considering that the proposed conceptual model incorporated moderation effects, reflective measurement models, prediction-oriented research objectives, and structurally complex relationships that align with the characteristics of variance-based SEM approaches (Benitez et al., 2020; Sarstedt et al., 2021).

2.2 Population and Sample

The population targeted in this research comprised Generation Z consumers in Indonesia ranging from 18 to 27 years of age who regularly participated in online purchasing activities and utilized digital commerce platforms. Generation Z was chosen as the focus of investigation because this demographic segment exhibits a high level of engagement with digital advertising environments, social networking platforms, and mobile-enabled purchasing practices. To be eligible for participation, respondents were required to satisfy three selection criteria: (1) being classified within the Generation Z age group, (2) having completed at least one online transaction within the last six months, and (3) actively accessing digital platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Shopee, Tokopedia, or other comparable e-commerce applications.

This study implemented a purposive sampling approach because the research specifically sought respondents who demonstrated active involvement in digital environments and possessed characteristics aligned with the study objectives. Data collection was conducted through online questionnaires disseminated via social media communities, university-based networks, and online commerce discussion forums during the period from January to March 2026.

Initially, 500 questionnaires were distributed to prospective participants. From this distribution, 450 completed responses were obtained, resulting in a response rate of 90 percent. After conducting data screening procedures including verification of questionnaire completeness, elimination of duplicate submissions, and assessment of response consistency a total of 420 questionnaires fulfilled the requirements and were included in the final stage of analysis.

Therefore, the final sample size used in this study consisted of 420 respondents. This sample size exceeded the minimum threshold requirements for the PLS-SEM analysis and provided sufficient statistical power for hypothesis testing and moderation analysis (Hair et al., 2022).

2.3 Measurement of Constructs

All measurement indicators in this study were assessed using a five-point Likert scale, with response categories ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Each construct was conceptualized as a reflective latent variable and adapted from established measurement frameworks developed in prior studies within the fields of digital marketing, consumer behavior, and online commerce.

Digital advertising effectiveness was defined as the independent construct reflecting consumers' evaluations of the extent to which digital advertising is capable of capturing attention, encouraging engagement, delivering useful information, and influencing purchasing behavior. This construct was measured through five indicators representing informativeness, entertainment, credibility, interactivity, and personalization, which were adapted from earlier empirical research on digital advertising (Lima et al., 2024; Shareef et al., 2021; Voorveld, 2021).

Advertising relevance was conceptualized as a moderating construct representing consumers' perceptions regarding the extent to which advertising content corresponds with their interests, personal preferences, and contextual needs. The measurement of this construct employed four indicators adapted from previous studies on personalization and advertising relevance, encompassing dimensions related to contextual suitability, alignment of content, perceived usefulness, and the relevance of advertising messages (J. Kim & Jeong, 2023; Lou & Xie, 2021b).

Online spending behavior was designated as the dependent construct reflecting respondents' propensity to participate in online purchasing activities and broader patterns of digital consumption. This construct was assessed using several indicators associated with the frequency of online transactions, the level of spending intensity, and the degree of engagement in digital shopping activities, which were adapted from established studies in the e-commerce behavior literature (Bilgin, 2022; W. M. Lim et al., 2022). To reduce distributional skewness, online spending data were log-transformed before structural analysis, consistent with recommendations in behavioral and consumer economics research.

2.4 Control Variables

In contrast to the earlier version of the manuscript, this study excluded macroeconomic variables, including GDP growth and inflation rates, from the set of respondent-level control variables because these aggregate measures do not demonstrate meaningful variation across individual respondents observed during the same data collection period. The exclusion of these variables was intended to enhance conceptual alignment between the unit of analysis and the level at which the study variables were measured.

As an alternative, the study incorporated individual-level demographic control variables considered theoretically relevant to explaining online spending behavior among Generation Z consumers. These control variables consisted of gender, monthly income, frequency of online purchasing activities, and the level of digital literacy. Digital literacy was operationalized through three measurement indicators capturing respondents' capabilities to navigate digital platforms, critically assess online information, and conduct online transactions in a secure manner. Previous empirical evidence has shown that digital literacy plays an

important role in shaping online purchasing behavior as well as influencing interactions with digital advertising environments (Nuryakin et al., 2022; M. S. Rahman et al., 2022).

2.5 Data Collection Procedure

Primary data were collected through a structured online questionnaire distributed using Google Forms. The use of an online survey approach was considered appropriate because the target population consisted of Generation Z consumers who are actively engaged in digital environments and demonstrate extensive access to internet services and social media platforms.

Prior to the main data collection stage, the questionnaire instrument was subjected to a pilot test involving 30 participants to evaluate item clarity, readability, and internal consistency. Based on the pilot assessment results, several minor modifications were introduced to enhance linguistic precision and improve respondents' understanding of the questionnaire items.

To minimize the risk of response bias and strengthen overall data quality, multiple procedural controls were implemented throughout the survey process. These measures included guaranteeing respondent anonymity, providing statements regarding voluntary participation, screening for duplicate submissions, and incorporating attention-check items within the questionnaire. Participants received information regarding the objectives of the study before completing the survey, and no personally identifiable data were gathered during data collection.

The research was conducted in accordance with ethical principles commonly applied in social and behavioral science studies, including voluntary participation, protection of respondent confidentiality, informed consent procedures, and responsible data handling practices.

Sample adequacy was assessed based on established guidelines for Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM). Taking into account the number of structural relationships directed toward the endogenous construct as well as the predictive objectives of the model, the final dataset consisting of 420 valid responses exceeded the recommended minimum sample requirement and was therefore deemed adequate for robust parameter estimation and hypothesis evaluation.

2.6 Data Analysis Framework

Data analysis was performed using SmartPLS 4.0, applying a two-step PLS-SEM procedure: evaluation of the measurement model followed by evaluation of the structural model. The choice of the PLS-SEM method was based on its suitability for studies prioritizing predictive objectives, testing moderating effects, dealing with data that may not meet the assumptions of normality, and allowing the exploratory development of theoretical models involving latent variables (Hair et al., 2022; Sarstedt et al., 2021).

The analytical process began with descriptive statistical procedures to identify respondent profiles and observe the distribution of study variables. The external measurement model was then evaluated by examining convergent validity, discriminant validity, and internal consistency.

Convergent validity was assessed using external factor loadings and the extracted mean variance (AVE). Values greater than 0.70 for external factor loadings and 0.50 for AVE were considered satisfactory. Internal consistency was assessed using composite reliability (CR) and Cronbach's alpha. Acceptable reliability was indicated by coefficients greater than 0.70 (Hair et al., 2022).

Discriminant validity was assessed using the Fornell-Larcker criterion and the heterotrait/monotrait (HTMT) ratio approach. It was considered adequate when HTMT values remained below the recommended threshold of 0.85, indicating that the constructs exhibited sufficient conceptual distinctness from one another (Benitez et al., 2020).

2.7 Inner Model and Structural Assessment

The structural model evaluation focused on examining path coefficients, the coefficient of determination (R^2), predictive accuracy (Q^2), effect size (f^2), and measures of overall model fit. The coefficient of determination (R^2) was used to determine the extent to which the structural model explained the variance of the endogenous variable, while the Stone-Geisser Q^2 statistic was used to assess predictive power using a blinded method.

Hypothesis testing was performed using a bootstrap resampling approach with 5,000 iterations to generate estimates of t-statistics, p-values, and bias-corrected confidence intervals. To examine the moderating role of ad relevance, an interaction analysis was conducted between the effectiveness of digital advertising and its relevance.

Furthermore, model quality was assessed using the standardized mean square root (SMSR), with values below 0.08 interpreted as indicating an acceptable level of fit. Multicollinearity was assessed using the variance inflation factor (VIF) diagnostic, and all predictive constructs produced VIF values below the recommended threshold of 3.3, suggesting that no substantial multicollinearity issues were present in the model.

2.8 Robustness Procedures

Several robustness assessment procedures were implemented to improve the credibility, validity, and predictive power of the research findings. First, a comparison was conducted between subgroups of respondents residing in urban and rural areas to explore potential contextual variations in online shopping behavior among Generation Z consumers.

Second, the potential presence of a common methodological bias was examined using procedural and statistical techniques. Procedurally, the study prioritized respondent anonymity and confidentiality to minimize assessment issues and reduce the risk of social desirability effects. Statistically, Harman's test was applied as an initial diagnostic tool, and the results indicated that no single factor explained the majority of the total variance.

However, aware that the Harman test alone may not offer sufficient sensitivity to identify a common methodological bias in current PLS-SEM applications, this study also incorporated a comprehensive collinearity assessment approach, in accordance with established methodological recommendations (Castillo et al., 2026). All full collinearity VIF values remained below 3.3, indicating that common method bias was unlikely to threaten the validity of structural relationships.

Finally, PLSpredict analysis was conducted to evaluate the out-of-sample predictive performance using Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) comparisons between PLS predictions and benchmark linear models. These procedures align with contemporary best practices in predictive-oriented PLS-SEM research in digital marketing and consumer behavior studies (Hair et al., 2022).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Descriptive Statistics

The respondents' profiles exhibit demographic characteristics consistent with the typical attributes of Generation Z consumers within the Indonesian digital economy. Of the 420

valid responses included in the analysis, approximately 68% were aged 18 to 23, while the remaining 32% were between 24 and 27. This distribution suggests that young consumers constitute the predominant group among active online consumers. Regarding education level, 72% of respondents held a high school diploma, while 28% were pursuing or had completed higher education. Overall, these demographic characteristics align with recent observations regarding the participation of Indonesian Generation Z consumers in digital commerce (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2025; M. A. Rahman et al., 2022).

The results indicate that respondents demonstrated moderate to relatively high levels of participation in using digital platforms and online shopping. On average, they were exposed to digital advertising via social media, e-commerce platforms, and video-sharing services for approximately 4.2 hours per day, reflecting considerable interaction with digital promotional content. Their average monthly online spending was IDR 1,250,000, with reported amounts ranging from IDR 500,000 to IDR 3,000,000. Furthermore, the median expenditure of IDR 1,200,000 suggests that Generation Z consumers possess significant purchasing power in Indonesia's rapidly expanding digital market.

Regarding digital literacy, respondents scored an average of 3.65 on a five-point scale, indicating a moderate level of technological skills, particularly in navigating digital platforms and conducting online transactions.

3.2 Measurement Model Assessment

Table 1. Construct Validity and Reliability

Construct	Cronbach's Alpha	rho_A	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Advertising Relevance (RELL)	0.888	0.889	0.923	0.749
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (ELFF)	0.897	0.905	0.924	0.708
Digital Literacy (LIT)	0.794	0.831	0.876	0.701
Online Spending Behavior (SPELND)	0.841	0.841	0.904	0.759

Table 1 summarizes the results of the construct reliability and convergent validity assessments for all latent variables included in the study. The assessment used Cronbach's alpha, rho_A, composite reliability (CR), and mean variance extracted (MVE) as the primary criteria.

The results demonstrate that all constructs meet the recommended standards for internal consistency. Cronbach's alpha coefficients range from 0.794 to 0.897, exceeding the accepted threshold of 0.70 and indicating adequate reliability of the measurement indicators. Similarly, rho_A values range from 0.831 to 0.905, confirming the reliability of the constructs.

The composite reliability values for each construct exceeded the minimum recommended criterion of 0.70, with observed values ranging from 0.876 to 0.924. These results indicate strong internal consistency among the indicators representing each latent construct.

In terms of convergent validity, all variables achieved AVE values above the 0.50 threshold, ranging from 0.701 to 0.759. These results suggest that each latent variable explains more than 50% of the variance of its corresponding indicators and confirm that these indicators adequately represent the variables studied.

More specifically, Advertising Reliability (PRP) demonstrated excellent psychometric performance, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.888, a composite reliability of 0.923, and an AVE of 0.749, indicating that the indicators accurately reflect respondents' perceptions of the reliability of digital advertising. Digital Advertising Effectiveness (ELPN) also demonstrated strong psychometric quality, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.897, a composite reliability of 0.924, and an AVE of 0.708. These values indicate that the variable reliably measures respondents' assessments of the effectiveness of digital advertising.

Regarding digital literacy (DL), the assessment results also demonstrated acceptable reliability and convergent validity, as evidenced by a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.794, a composite reliability of 0.876, and an AVE of 0.701. These results confirm that the indicators adequately reflect respondents' digital skills and understanding.

The dependent variable, online purchasing behavior (OC), also exhibited satisfactory psychometric performance, with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.841, a composite reliability of 0.904, and an AVE of 0.759, indicating strong consistency in the measurement of online purchasing behavior. It is important to note that the reliability and convergent validity assessments were applied exclusively to the reflective variables included in the measurement model. The interaction variables generated for the moderation analysis were not subjected to conventional reliability and validity assessment procedures.

Overall, the measurement model meets established criteria for reliability and convergent validity, indicating that all selected indicators are suitable for further evaluation of the structural model and hypothesis testing.

Outer Loadings

Table 2. Outer Loadings

Construct	Advertising Reliability (RELL)	Digital Advertising Effectiveness (ELFF)	Digital Literacy (LIT)	Moderating Effect 1	Online Spending Behavior (SPELND)
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (ELFF) * Advertising Reliability (RELL)				0.967	
ELFF1		0.866			
ELFF2		0.855			

ELFF3		0.78			
ELFF4		0.876			
ELFF5		0.828			
LIT1			0.789		
LIT2			0.862		
LIT3			0.859		
RELL1	0.865				
RELL2	0.871				
RELL3	0.849				
RELL4	0.876				
SPELND1					0.869
SPELND2					0.881
SPELND3					0.863

Table 2 presents the results of the external factor loadings for all the indicators selected to operationalize the latent constructs within the proposed research framework. These loadings were evaluated to determine the reliability of the indicators and assess the convergent validity of the PLS-SEM measurement model.

According to established evaluation standards, external factor loadings greater than 0.708 indicate that an indicator explains at least 50% of the variance of the construct to which it is associated and is therefore considered appropriate for inclusion in the model.

The results reveal that all indicators achieved acceptable loadings, ranging from 0.780 to 0.967. As all values exceeded the recommended threshold, the results confirm the satisfactory reliability of the indicators for the entire measurement model.

Regarding the effectiveness of digital advertising (ELFF), the five indicators exhibited consistently high loading values, ranging from 0.780 to 0.876. Among these indicators, ELFF4 had the highest loading value (0.876), followed by ELFF1 (0.866), ELFF2 (0.855), ELFF5 (0.828), and ELFF3 (0.780). These results suggest that the indicators effectively and consistently represent respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of exposure to digital advertising.

The "Advertising Relevance" (RELL) construct also demonstrated strong performance, with loading coefficients ranging from 0.849 to 0.876. RELL4 had the highest loading value (0.876), followed by RELL2 (0.871), RELL1 (0.865), and RELL3 (0.849). This trend indicates that the indicators accurately reflect respondents' assessments of the relevance of digital advertising content.

Regarding digital literacy (DLIT), the indicator's saturation values ranged from 0.789 to 0.862. The highest saturation was observed for DLIT2 (0.862), closely followed by DLIT3 (0.859) and DLIT1 (0.789), demonstrating acceptable measurement performance and confirming an adequate representation of respondents' digital literacy levels.

Regarding online purchasing behavior (SPELND), all indicators generated high saturation values, ranging from 0.863 to 0.881. SPELND2 had the highest saturation coefficient (0.881), followed by SPELND1 (0.869) and SPELND3 (0.863), confirming the high reliability of this indicator for assessing online purchasing behavior.

The interaction constructs generated for the model tests were retained solely for structural estimation purposes and were not evaluated using conventional indicator reliability or discriminant validity procedures. Because these constructs were developed through interaction specification rather than direct measurement using multiple indicators, their interpretation emphasizes the representation of moderation effects rather than the traditional assessment of measurement quality.

Overall, all retained indicators exceeded the recommended threshold of 0.708, thus confirming that the requirements for indicator reliability and convergent validity were met. Therefore, all measurement elements were retained for subsequent structural model analysis.

Discriminant Validity Assessment (Fornell–Larcker Approach)

Table 3. Discriminant Validity Assessment (Fornell–Larcker Approach)

Construct	Advertising Relevance (REL)	Digital Advertising Effectiveness (EFF)	Digital Literacy (LIT)	Moderating Effect 1	Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)
Advertising Relevance (REL)	0.865				
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (EFF)	0.4	0.841			
Digital Literacy (LIT)	0.14	0.274	0.837		
Moderating Effect 1	-0.008	-0.078	0.013	1	
Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)	0.322	0.464	0.294	0.082	0.871

Table 3 presents the results of the discriminant validity assessment according to the Fornell-Larcker criterion. This assessment examines whether each latent construct explains more variance through its own indicators than through its associations with other constructs included in the model. As recommended, the square root of the extracted mean variance (ELMV), shown on the diagonal, must be greater than the inter-construct correlation values.

The results indicate that all constructs meet the Fornell-Larcker criterion, thus demonstrating adequate discriminant validity within the measurement model.

For Advertising Relevance (PR), the square root of the ELMV reaches 0.865, a value higher than its correlations with Digital Advertising Effectiveness (0.400), Digital Literacy (0.140), Moderating Effect (-0.008), and Online Purchasing Behavior (0.322). This result

suggests that advertising relevance is an empirically distinct construct from the other variables in the model.

Similarly, digital advertising effectiveness (DAE) yielded a square root of AVE of 0.841, higher than its correlations with digital literacy (0.274), the moderating effect (-0.078), and online purchasing behavior (0.464). These results confirm that the indicators associated with digital advertising effectiveness reflect a distinct concept.

Regarding digital literacy (DLI), the square root of AVE was 0.837, surpassing its correlations with advertising relevance (0.140), digital advertising effectiveness (0.274), the moderating effect (0.013), and online purchasing behavior (0.294). This result indicates that digital literacy remains conceptually distinct and well differentiated from the other variables included in the analytical framework.

The interaction construct "Moderating Effect 1" generated a diagonal coefficient of 1.000, significantly higher than its correlations with all other constructs. Because this construct was created as an interaction term within SmartPLS rather than specified as a classic reflective latent variable, its interpretation emphasizes the representation of interaction rather than the traditional assessment of discriminant validity.

The dependent construct, Online Purchasing Behavior (SPELND), also meets the requirements for discriminant validity. The square root of SPELND reaches 0.871, exceeding its correlations with Advertising Relevance (0.322), Digital Advertising Effectiveness (0.464), Digital Literacy (0.294), and Moderating Effect (0.082).

Overall, the results demonstrate that each construct possesses adequate empirical specificity and represents a distinct conceptual dimension. Therefore, the measurement model meets the criteria for discriminant validity according to the Fornell-Larcker approach and is deemed appropriate for further structural evaluation.

Discriminant Validity Assessment (HTMT)

Table 4. Discriminant Validity Assessment (HTMT)

Construct	Advertising Relevance (REL)	Digital Advertising Effectiveness (EFF)	Digital Literacy (LIT)	Moderating Effect 1	Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)
Advertising Relevance (REL)					
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (EFF)	0.448				
Digital Literacy (LIT)	0.156	0.313			
Moderating Effect 1	0.014	0.082	0.023		

Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)	0.373	0.53	0.342	0.09	
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Table 4 presents the results of the discriminant validity assessment using the heterotrait-monotrait ratio (HTMT). The HTMT determines the degree of similarity between latent constructs and is widely recognized as a more rigorous method for assessing discriminant validity in PLS-SEM analysis. In accordance with established recommendations, HTMT values should remain below 0.90, while values below 0.85 confirm construct specificity. The results demonstrate that all HTMT coefficients remained well below the recommended thresholds, indicating satisfactory discriminant validity for the entire measurement model.

The highest HTMT coefficient was observed between digital advertising effectiveness (ELFF) and online purchasing behavior (SPEND), with a value of 0.530, considerably lower than the threshold of 0.90. This result indicates that, although the two constructs exhibit a conceptual association, they remain empirically distinct.

The observed HTMT value between Advertising Relevance (REL) and Digital Advertising Effectiveness (ELFF) was 0.448, reflecting a moderate level of association while maintaining adequate discriminant validity.

Similarly, Online Purchasing Behavior (SPEND) demonstrated acceptable HTMT values relative to Advertising Relevance (0.373) and Digital Literacy (0.342), suggesting that these constructs represent distinct conceptual domains despite positive relationships. For Digital Literacy (LIT), the HTMT coefficients remained relatively low compared to Advertising Relevance (0.156) and Digital Advertising Effectiveness (0.313), indicating a clear conceptual distinction between respondents' digital skills and their perceptions of advertising-related factors.

The Moderator Effect 1 interaction construct generated very low HTMT values for all constructs, ranging from 0.014 to 0.090. Since this construct was developed as an interaction specification within SmartPLS rather than measured by conventional reflective metrics, these coefficients should not be interpreted as evidence of construct overlap, but rather as an indication that the interaction construct remains distinct from the primary effects.

Overall, all HTMT values were below the recommended threshold of 0.90, empirically confirming the adequate discriminant validity of the latent constructs. Therefore, the measurement model demonstrated sufficient construct specificity and was deemed suitable for further evaluation of the structural model.

Collinearity Statistics (VIF)

Table 5. Collinearity Statistics (VIF)

Construct	VIF
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (ELFF) * Advertising Relevance (REL)	1
ELFF1	2.474
ELFF2	2.409
ELFF3	1.888

E.FF4	2.637
E.FF5	2.175
LIT1	1.753
LIT2	1.803
LIT3	1.553
REL1	2.322
REL2	2.426
REL3	2.175
REL4	2.46
SPEND1	2.014
SPEND2	2.109
SPEND3	1.883

Table 5 summarizes the results of the collinearity assessment using the variance inflation factor (VIF). This assessment aimed to verify that the indicators included in the PLS-SEM model did not exhibit excessive multicollinearity, which could bias the parameter estimates and impair the model's interpretability.

In accordance with established recommendations for PLS-SEM analysis, VIF values below 5.00 indicate the absence of significant collinearity, while values below 3.30 provide a more conservative indication of acceptable collinearity.

The results show that all VIF coefficients ranged from 1.000 to 2.637, remaining well below the recommended thresholds. Therefore, no problematic multicollinearity was identified in the measurement model.

For the indicators representing the effectiveness of digital advertising (ELFF), the VIF values ranged from 1.888 to 2.637. Among these indicators, ELFF4 generated the highest VIF coefficient (2.637), followed by ELFF1 (2.474) and ELFF2 (2.409). Despite these variations, all values remained within acceptable limits, indicating that each indicator provides distinct information without excessive redundancy.

The indicators associated with the relevance of ads (RELL) also showed acceptable collinearity statistics, with VIF values ranging from 2.175 to 2.460. REL4 recorded the highest coefficient (2.460), followed by REL2 (2.426), suggesting the presence of moderate but acceptable relationships between the indicators.

Regarding digital literacy (DLL), the VIF coefficients ranged from 1.553 to 1.803, reflecting very low levels of collinearity and confirming that the indicators independently represent respondents' digital skills.

Similarly, the indicators measuring online purchasing behavior (SPEND) produced VIF values between 1.883 and 2.109, indicating adequate independence between the indicators and confirming the stability of the measures.

Furthermore, the collinearity assessment confirmed that all reflective indicators met the recommended VIF criteria, thus demonstrating the absence of significant multicollinearity in the measurement model.

In summary, the evaluation results indicate that all indicators met acceptable VIF thresholds. Therefore, the model can be considered free of multicollinearity issues and suitable for further structural evaluation and hypothesis testing.

**Structural Model
Path Coefficients**

Table 6. Path Coefficients

Construct	Advertising Relevance (REL)	Digital Advertising Effectiveness (EFF)	Digital Literacy (LIT)	Moderating Effect 1	Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)
Advertising Relevance (REL)					0.154
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (EFF)					0.364
Digital Literacy (LIT)					0.171
Moderating Effect 1					0.114
Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)					

Table 6 presents the structural path coefficients from the PLS-SEM estimation procedure. These coefficients represent both the direction and strength of the relationships between the latent variables and provide an initial assessment of the proposed conceptual framework before proceeding with statistical significance tests.

The results indicate that all structural relationships produced positive coefficients, suggesting that higher values for the independent variables are associated with higher levels of online spending (SPEND).

Among the direct relationships examined, digital advertising effectiveness (EFF) had the strongest effect on online spending, with a path coefficient of 0.364. This result indicates that respondents who rate digital advertising as more effective are more likely to spend more online. The relatively high coefficient further suggests that advertising effectiveness proved to be the most influential predictor within the proposed model.

The second most significant effect was identified for digital literacy (DLIT), which generated a coefficient of 0.171. This result implies that individuals with better digital skills and greater ease in navigating online environments tend to participate more actively in online shopping activities.

Advertising relevance (PP) also demonstrated a positive association with online shopping behavior (coefficient of 0.154). This result suggests that consumers who perceive digital advertising as being more aligned with their personal interests and needs are more inclined to make online purchases.

Regarding the moderating relationship, the interaction between digital advertising effectiveness and relevance generated a positive coefficient of 0.114. This result indicates that advertising relevance strengthens the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online shopping behavior, meaning that the impact of advertising effectiveness is more pronounced when advertising content is perceived as

highly relevant by consumers. Nevertheless, despite its statistical significance, the moderating effect has a relatively small practical contribution ($f^2 = 0.017$), which indicates that advertising relevance acts more as a reinforcing mechanism than as a primary determinant of online purchasing behavior.

Overall, the structural relationships indicate that Digital Advertising Effectiveness emerges as the strongest predictor among the variables included in the model. Additionally, the positive interaction effect suggests that relevance plays an important role in enhancing the impact of advertising effectiveness in digital consumer environments.

3.3 Structural Model Assessment Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

Table 7. Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

Construct Endogen	R Square	R Square Adjusted
Online Spending Behavior _(SPEND)	0.278	0.271

Table 7 presents the coefficient of determination (R^2) and the adjusted coefficient of determination (adjusted R^2) for the endogenous variable "Online Purchasing Behavior" (SPEND). The coefficient of determination assesses the predictive performance of the structural model by indicating the extent to which the variance of the dependent variable is explained by the independent variables included in the model.

The results indicate that online purchasing behavior (SPEND) has an R^2 of 0.278, meaning that 27.8% of the variation in this behavior can be explained by the effectiveness of digital advertising (ELFF), the relevance of advertising (RELL), digital literacy (LIT), and the moderating interaction effect (ELFF \times RELL).

Furthermore, the adjusted R^2 of 0.271 suggests that, after accounting for the complexity of the model and the total number of predictors, approximately 27.1% of the variance in online purchasing behavior remains explained by the structural model. The small difference between the R^2 and the adjusted R^2 indicates that the model exhibits adequate stability and shows no significant signs of overfitting.

According to generally accepted recommendations for interpreting PLS-SEM models, R^2 values close to 0.75, 0.50, and 0.25 are generally considered to represent substantial, moderate, and low explanatory power, respectively. Thus, the obtained R^2 value (0.278) suggests that the explanatory power of the proposed model falls within the low to moderate range.

These results imply that, although the variables included in the framework contribute significantly to explaining online purchasing behavior, a considerable portion of the variance (72.2%) remains attributable to factors not included in the model. This

unexplained variance could reflect the influence of additional contextual, behavioral, and psychological determinants not addressed in this study.

Overall, the results demonstrate that the proposed model exhibits an acceptable level of predictive performance and provides a sufficient basis for explaining the online spending behavior of Generation Z consumers in the emerging environment of the Indonesian digital market.

Effect Size (f^2)

Table 8. Effect Size (f^2)

Relationship	f^2	Interpretasi
E.F.F → S.P.E.N.D	0.144	Small–approaching medium
L.I.T → S.P.E.N.D	0.037	Small
R.E.L → S.P.E.N.D	0.027	Small
E.F.F × R.E.L → S.P.E.N.D	0.017	Very small

Table 8 presents the effect size (f^2) estimates for each explanatory variable influencing online purchasing behavior (SPEND). The effect size was assessed to determine the relative contribution of each exogenous variable to the explanatory power of the structural model by examining the changes in the coefficient of determination (R^2) following the exclusion of an explanatory variable from the model.

In accordance with the interpretation rules established for structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM), f^2 values of 0.02, 0.15, and 0.35 represent small, medium, and large effects, respectively.

The results indicate that all explanatory variables contribute positively to explaining online purchasing behavior, although the magnitude of their contribution varies among variables.

Among all the explanatory variables, digital advertising effectiveness (DAI) had the largest effect size, with an f -squares value of 0.144. Although this coefficient remains slightly below the recommended threshold for a medium effect (0.15), its proximity to this threshold allows it to be interpreted as demonstrating a small to moderate practical influence on online purchasing behavior. This result suggests that advertising effectiveness is the most influential explanatory factor within the proposed framework.

Digital literacy (DN) generated an f -squares value of 0.037, indicating a small effect size. Although the relationship reached statistical significance, its practical contribution to explaining variations in online purchasing behavior remained relatively limited.

Similarly, advertising relevance (PP) produced an f -squares value of 0.027, which also corresponds to a small effect. This result indicates that advertising relevance contributes positively to online purchasing behavior. However, its independent explanatory power remains comparatively modest.

The interaction construct (Modeling Effect 1) yielded an f^2 coefficient of 0.017, slightly below the conventional threshold of 0.02. This result suggests that, although the

moderating effect was statistically confirmed by the resampling procedure, its practical contribution to improving the model's explanatory power remains limited. More specifically, advertising relevance strengthens the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online purchasing behavior, but the magnitude of this effect remains relatively small.

Overall, the effect size assessment demonstrates that digital advertising effectiveness is the factor that contributes most to the practical improvement of the model, while advertising, digital literacy, and the moderating interaction provide additional, but comparatively more modest, improvements to its explanatory power.

Bootstrapping Results and Hypothesis Testing

Table 9. Bootstrapping Results and Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (O/STDEV)	P Values
Advertising Relevance (REL) → Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)	0.154	0.155	0.043	3.535	<0.001
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (EFF) → Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)	0.364	0.365	0.045	8.025	<0.001
Digital Literacy (LIT) → Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)	0.171	0.174	0.043	3.969	<0.001
Moderating Effect 1 → Online Spending Behavior (SPEND)	0.114	0.113	0.038	3.004	0.003

Table 9 presents the results of the bootstrap resampling procedure applied to examine the significance of the hypotheses proposed in the structural model. The evaluation was based on the path coefficients, standard errors, t-statistics, and p-values generated by the resampling process within the framework of the structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM). The results indicate that all the hypothetical relationships produced positive and statistically significant effects on online purchasing behavior (SPEND), thus empirically validating all the hypotheses proposed in the model.

First, advertising relevance (REL) demonstrated a positive and statistically significant effect on online purchasing behavior, with a path coefficient (β) of 0.154, a t-statistic of 3.535, and a p-value less than 0.001. Since the t-statistic was greater than the generally accepted threshold of 1.96 and the p-value was less than 0.05, the relationship was considered statistically significant. Therefore, hypothesis H2 is confirmed. This result suggests that consumers who perceive digital advertising as being more aligned with their interests and preferences are more likely to make larger online purchases.

Secondly, perceived digital advertising effectiveness (PDA) demonstrated the strongest direct influence on online purchasing behavior, with a path coefficient (β) of 0.364, a t-

statistic of 8.025, and a p-value less than 0.001. These results confirm that the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online purchasing behavior and thus support hypothesis H1. The relatively high path coefficient and t-statistic further indicate that digital advertising effectiveness is the most influential predictor within the structural model.

Third, digital literacy (DL) produced a positive and statistically significant relationship with online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.171$, $t = 3.969$, $p < 0.001$). This result indicates that respondents with better digital skills tend to engage more actively in online shopping. Although digital literacy was introduced as a control variable, its significance suggests that digital skills remain a major contextual determinant influencing consumer behavior. Finally, the interaction factor (Model Effect 1) generated a positive and statistically significant effect on online purchasing behavior, with a coefficient of 0.114, a t-statistic of 3.004, and a p-value of 0.003. These results demonstrate that advertising relevance significantly moderates the relationship between the effectiveness of digital advertising and online purchasing behavior, thus confirming hypothesis H3. The positive interaction coefficient indicates that the influence of advertising effectiveness increases when advertising relevance is perceived as more relevant to consumers' individual interests and needs.

Overall, the bootstrap analysis confirms the statistical validity of all the proposed hypotheses. The results highlight the effectiveness of digital advertising as the primary determinant of online purchasing behavior, while advertising relevance contributes both through its direct influence and its moderating role. Furthermore, digital literacy increases consumers' propensity to make online purchases.

Predictive Relevance (Q²)

Table 10. Predictive Relevance (Q²)

Construct	SSO	SSEL	Q ² (=1-SSEL/SSO)
Advertising Relevance (RELL)	1680	1680	
Digital Advertising Effectiveness (ELFF)	2100	2100	
Digital Literacy (LIT)	1260	1260	
Moderating Effect 1	420	420	
Online Spending Behavior (SPELND)	1260	1004.15	0.203

Table 10 presents the results of the predictive accuracy (Q²) assessment obtained through the blind procedure in the PLS-SEM analysis. This analysis determines how accurately the structural model predicts the observed values of the endogenous variables.

According to the established interpretation standards for PLS-SEM, Q² values greater than zero indicate predictive accuracy, while values close to 0.02, 0.15, and 0.35 are generally interpreted as reflecting low, moderate, and high levels of predictive accuracy, respectively.

The results show that the variable "Online Spending Behavior" (SPELND) obtained a SSO value of 1,260,000 and an SSEL value of 1,004,146, resulting in a Q² value of 0.203.

Since the Q^2 value obtained is greater than zero, the results confirm that the structural model has predictive power and can predict online spending behavior beyond what a random estimate would allow.

Furthermore, the Q^2 coefficient of 0.203 exceeds the recommended threshold of 0.15, indicating a model level of predictive accuracy. This result suggests that the combined influence of digital advertising effectiveness (DFA), advertising relevance (OR), digital literacy (DLI), and the moderating interaction effect (DFA \times OR) offers significant predictive performance for explaining online consumer behavior.

While the predictive performance cannot be described as excellent, the results indicate that the proposed framework adequately predicts the behavior of Generation Z consumers in the context of the rapidly evolving Indonesian digital market.

For the exogenous variables (advertising relevance, digital advertising effectiveness, digital literacy, and moderating effect 1), Q^2 values were not estimated, as the assessment of predictive relevance within the framework of structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM) applies exclusively to endogenous variables.

Overall, the results demonstrate that the structural model exhibits satisfactory predictive relevance and confirm the practical applicability of the proposed framework for explaining online consumer behavior.

Figure 2. SEM-PLS Structural Model

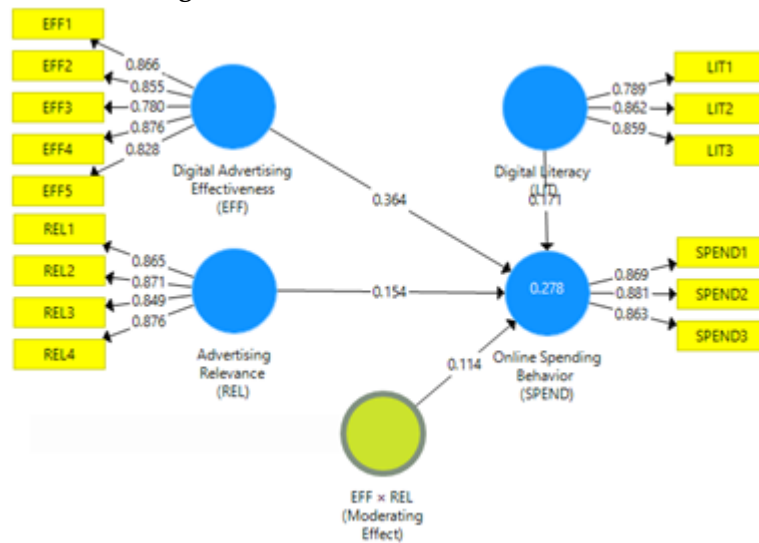


Figure 2 illustrates the final structural model estimated by partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM), describing the relationships between digital advertising effectiveness (DAE), advertising relevance (AR), digital literacy (DLIT), the moderating interaction factor (DAE \times AR), and online purchasing behavior (SPELND).

The measurement model demonstrates the adequate reliability of the indicators, as evidenced by the external factor loadings of all selected indicators, which are above the recommended threshold of 0.70. More specifically, the factor loadings for the digital advertising effectiveness indicator range from 0.780 to 0.876, those for advertising relevance from 0.849 to 0.876, those for digital literacy from 0.789 to 0.862, and those for online purchasing behavior from 0.863 to 0.881. These results indicate that all indicators adequately represent their respective latent constructs and that no indicator elimination was therefore necessary.

Analysis of the structural model revealed that the perceived effectiveness of digital advertising had the strongest direct effect on online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.364$). This result indicates that the perceived effectiveness of digital advertising is associated with increased engagement in online shopping among Generation Z consumers. Advertising relevance also showed a positive relationship with online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.154$), suggesting that advertisements perceived as being more aligned with consumers' interests and preferences tend to encourage higher spending.

Digital literacy, included as a control variable, also contributed positively to online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.171$), indicating that consumers with better digital skills are more likely to actively participate in online shopping.

Furthermore, the interaction factor representing the moderating effect ($ELFF \times RELL$) generated a positive path coefficient ($\beta = 0.114$), indicating that the relevance of advertising strengthens the relationship between the perceived effectiveness of digital advertising and online purchasing behavior. Nevertheless, despite its statistical significance, the practical contribution of this moderating effect remains relatively limited. The coefficient of determination also indicates that online purchasing behavior has an R^2 of 0.278, meaning that 27.8% of the variance in this behavior is explained jointly by the effectiveness of digital advertising, its relevance, digital literacy, and their interaction. The remaining 72.2% could be attributed to other factors not considered in the current model.

In summary, Figure 2 shows that the effectiveness of digital advertising is the most significant explanatory factor among all the predictors included in the structural model.

3.4 Moderation Effect Visualization

Moderation analysis revealed that the positive link between digital advertising effectiveness and online spending strengthened when the perceived relevance of the advertising was high. Respondents who viewed advertising content as closely related to their interests, personal preferences, and online shopping needs demonstrated stronger behavioral responses to effective digital advertising compared to those who perceived it as less relevant.

Interaction slope analysis further demonstrated that increased digital advertising effectiveness led to a more pronounced increase in online spending when advertising relevance was high. Conversely, when perceived relevance was lower, the influence of digital advertising effectiveness on spending was relatively less pronounced. These results support the idea that personalization and contextual relevance are important mechanisms that enhance the persuasive effectiveness of digital advertising within digital commerce ecosystems.

3.5 Discussion

The results of this study empirically demonstrated that the effectiveness and relevance of digital advertising, as well as the level of digital literacy, significantly influence the online purchasing behavior of Generation Z consumers in the context of Indonesia's rapidly expanding digital market. Furthermore, advertising relevance proves to be a significant moderating factor, strengthening the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online purchasing behavior.

Among the direct relationships examined, digital advertising effectiveness emerged as the strongest predictor of online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.364$, $p < 0.001$). This finding suggests that Generation Z consumers are more likely to increase their online purchases when digital advertisements are perceived as informative, engaging, persuasive, and effective in facilitating their purchasing decisions. This result confirms previous data suggesting that effective digital advertising is an important mechanism for influencing consumer engagement and purchasing outcomes in a digital commerce context.

This finding is consistent with (Wijoyo et al., 2026), who demonstrated that technology-mediated interactions through virtual influencers significantly enhance consumer engagement by strengthening users' perceptions of usefulness and digital interaction quality. The present study extends these findings by showing that effective digital advertising not only increases engagement-related responses but also translates into higher online spending behavior among Generation Z consumers in Indonesia.

Advertising relevance also demonstrated a direct, positive, and statistically significant effect on online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.154$, $p < 0.001$). This result suggests that consumers respond more favorably when advertising content matches their preferences, circumstances, and personal interests. Relevant advertising appeals to reduce the perception of advertising intrusion while improving receptiveness to promotional communication.

Digital literacy, included as a control variable, also demonstrated a positive and statistically significant influence on online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.171$, $p < 0.001$). This result indicates that individuals with strong digital skills tend to navigate digital platforms more effectively, evaluate information more critically, and make online purchases with greater confidence.

The moderation analysis also revealed that ad relevance significantly strengthened the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and online purchasing behavior ($\beta = 0.114$, $p = 0.003$). This result suggests that the effect of advertising effectiveness is more pronounced when consumers perceive digital ads as relevant. However, despite its statistical significance, the moderating effect generated a relatively limited practical contribution ($f^2 = 0.017$), indicating that relevance acts primarily as a complementary reinforcement mechanism rather than the main determinant of online purchasing behavior.

According to the structural model assessment, the coefficient of determination showed that the proposed variables collectively explained 27.8% of the variance in online purchasing behavior ($R^2 = 0.278$; adjusted $R^2 = 0.271$). In accordance with the interpretation standards established for structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM), this level represents a low to moderate explanatory power. Therefore, while the model provides relevant information on consumer behavior, a significant portion of behavioral variation remains attributable to factors outside the scope of the study.

Effect size assessment also demonstrated that the effectiveness of digital advertising contributed most to practical influence ($f^2 = 0.144$), approaching the category of medium effects, while digital literacy ($f^2 = 0.037$), ad relevance ($f^2 = 0.027$), and the moderating effect ($f^2 = 0.017$) generated comparatively smaller practical contributions. These results further underscore the dominant role of advertising effectiveness within the proposed framework.

Finally, the predictive relevance assessment yielded a Q^2 of 0.203, indicating moderate predictive power and confirming the model's significant predictive relevance. This result

demonstrates that the combined effects of digital advertising effectiveness, relevance, digital culture, and their interactions not only explain consumer behavior but also predict future online spending trends.

Overall, the results support the idea that Generation Z's purchasing behavior is increasingly determined by the quality and contextual relevance of digital advertising, rather than solely by the intensity of advertising exposure. Therefore, businesses are encouraged to prioritize personalized communication, adaptive recommendation mechanisms, and targeted advertising strategies.

4. Conclusion and Policy Implications

4.1 Conclusion

This study examined the relationship between digital advertising effectiveness and the online purchasing behavior of Generation Z consumers within Indonesia's rapidly expanding digital economy, while also analyzing the moderating role of ad relevance. Empirical findings indicate that digital advertising effectiveness exerts a positive and statistically significant influence on the online purchasing behavior of Generation Z consumers. Ad relevance also contributes, through both direct and moderating effects, suggesting that consumers exhibit more favorable behaviors toward ads perceived as personalized, contextually relevant, and aligned with their individual preferences. These results enrich the existing literature on digital marketing by highlighting the importance of relevance, engagement quality, and consumer-centric advertising approaches in influencing behavior in digital environments (J. Kim & Jelong, 2023; Sharel et al., 2021).

The structural model demonstrated weak-to-moderate explanatory capability, with the proposed variables collectively explaining 27.8% of the variance in online spending behavior ($R^2 = 0.278$). This result indicates that digital advertising effectiveness and relevance are important predictors of consumer purchasing activity among digitally connected young consumers in emerging market contexts. Although statistically significant, the interaction effect demonstrated a relatively modest practical contribution, indicating that advertising relevance acts as a complementary enhancer rather than a dominant driver of online spending behavior. These findings are consistent with contemporary studies suggesting that personalized digital communication enhances consumer engagement, trust, and purchase intention in technology-mediated environments (D. Y. Kim et al., 2021; Youn & Kim, 2022).

From a theoretical perspective, the findings support the applicability of the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) framework in explaining how external advertising stimuli influence internal cognitive evaluations and subsequent behavioral responses (Melhrabian & Russell, 1974; Vielira, 2013). The findings may be interpreted through complementary insights from TAM regarding users' evaluations of digital experience and perceived utility. However, TAM was not directly operationalized in the present model and therefore functions only as an interpretive perspective (Davis, 1989; Sağkaya Güngör & Ozansoy Çadırcı, 2022). Rather than proposing a fully integrated theoretical model, this study utilized complementary insights from the SOR and TAM perspectives to explain the mechanisms underlying digital advertising effectiveness and consumer spending behavior among Generation Z users.

Overall, this study provides empirical evidence contributing to ongoing discussions on digital advertising effectiveness and online consumer behavior in emerging market settings. These findings further highlight the strategic importance of personalization, contextual suitability, and adaptive advertising systems in enhancing online consumer engagement and purchasing behavior among digitally intensive consumer segments.

4.2 Policy Implications

The findings of this study have several practical implications for policymakers, e-commerce platforms, and digital marketing practitioners operating within Indonesia's rapidly expanding digital economy. From a public policy perspective, the positive role of digital literacy in influencing online spending behavior suggests the importance of strengthening digital capability development programs, particularly among young consumers in underserved and non-urban regions. Therefore, government agencies and educational institutions should prioritize initiatives related to digital literacy, cybersecurity awareness, online transaction safety, and responsible digital consumption practices to improve inclusive participation in the digital marketplace (Jamil et al., 2022; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2023).

For e-commerce platforms and technology companies, the results emphasize the strategic value of improving personalization systems and relevance-based recommendation algorithms. Consumers reported stronger tendencies toward online spending when digital advertisements aligned with their preferences, browsing behavior, and situational needs. Consequently, digital platforms should prioritize adaptive advertising technologies capable of delivering contextually appropriate, consumer-oriented promotional content while minimizing advertising fatigue and intrusive exposure. Prior studies have similarly indicated that personalized recommendation systems and AI-driven content optimization significantly improve consumer engagement and platform retention within digital commerce ecosystems (Lima et al., 2024; Saura et al., 2021).

This study also has important implications for digital marketers and advertising agencies. Rather than relying primarily on high-volume advertising exposure, firms may benefit from emphasizing advertising quality, contextual relevance, emotional engagement, and interactive communication strategies tailored to Generation Z consumers. Given that Generation Z users are highly selective in their digital content exposure, businesses may benefit from integrating behavioral analytics, platform-specific communication approaches, and data-driven advertising strategies to improve consumer responsiveness and purchasing conversion rates (Djafarova & Bowels, 2021; Lou & Xie, 2021a).

4.3 Limitations and Future Research

Several limitations must be considered when interpreting the results of this study. First, the use of a cross-sectional research design does not allow for the establishment of long-term causal relationships between the effectiveness of digital advertising and online purchasing behavior. Consumer responses to digital advertising are likely to evolve over time due to technological advancements, changes in platform algorithms, and shifts in consumer habits. Therefore, future longitudinal studies could provide a better understanding of how the interaction between digital advertising practices and consumer purchasing behavior has evolved over time.

Second, this study relied on self-reported data regarding purchasing behavior, which may introduce response bias despite the methodological and statistical efforts made to reduce variance related to this method. Future research could strengthen the empirical rigor by incorporating objective behavioral indicators, such as transaction history, platform-generated analytics, or real-time purchase data obtained through potential collaborations with digital commerce providers, where feasible.

Third, this research specifically examined Generation Z consumers within the Indonesian digital economy, which may limit the scope of the findings to other demographic groups and national contexts. Therefore, future comparative studies conducted across multiple emerging economies, with different intergenerational consumer segments, or in specific industry sectors could contribute to a better understanding of the effectiveness of digital advertising in diverse technological and cultural contexts. Furthermore, it is recommended that future research explore other relevant mechanisms – such as artificial intelligence-based recommendation systems, influencer marketing strategies, social commerce environments, and algorithmic personalization – as potential antecedents, moderating variables, or mediating mechanisms that shape the behavior of digital consumers in emerging markets.

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