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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Application of Heat Maps and Eye Tracking Technology in Market Research: A Study Of Consumer Attention and Engagement

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims to explore the extent to which the usage of heat-maps and eye tracking technology influences the three key performance indicators viz., Advertising effectiveness, Consumer attention and engagement and Market research decision making accuracy. Business firms are swiftly moving towards bio-metric and visual analytics, with special reference to heatmaps and eye tracking mechanism to seek insights into consumer behaviour and to assess the advertising performance. A quantitative research design was used to gather data from 195 professionals on a 5 point Likert scale. Exploratory factor analysis and Principal component analysis with Varimax rotation, Descriptive statistics, Standard Deviation, Pearson correlation, Multiple regression, ANOVA and Chi-square analysis have been performed to ascertain the relationship between the study variables. Statistical evidence identifies a strong correlation between eye tracking and consumer attention ($r = 0.74$), while Heat maps showed a significant positive relationship with advertising effectiveness ($r = 0.62$). The regression model shows that the two independent variables account for 48.2% of the variance in decision making accuracy ($R^2 = 0.482$, $P < .001$). Although both tools are significant predictors, Heatmaps ($\beta = 0.412$) showed a slightly higher relative impact on overall research accuracy compared to Eye-Tracking ($\beta = 0.385$) in this specific cohort. The study concludes that visual behavior mechanisms are critical for modern market research. By providing a “truth-layer” of physiological data, these tools significantly reduce researcher bias and improve the reliability of strategic marketing decisions. The findings of the study recommend a hybrid adoption of both tools to maximize the precision of consumer engagement metrics.

Keywords: Advertising effectiveness, Consumer attention, Decision Making accuracy, Eye-Tracking, Heat-maps, Market Research.

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the behavior of modern consumers is becoming more challenging than ever. Traditional approaches such as surveys, interviews and focus groups often fail to account for subconscious processes behind the purchase decision, whereas, innovative tools like heat-maps and eye-tracking mechanisms offer new ways to

quantify and qualify this information. Modern neuro marketing technologies like heat-maps and eye-tracking mechanisms are increasingly popular for addressing consumer attention issues. Heat-maps serve as visual aids that represent the collected information about user interactions with websites, advertisements, product packaging or mobile applications, with colors indicating which regions attract the most and least attention. With

the help of heat-maps, it is possible to optimize the website or advertisement structure and content to achieve maximum engagement. Digital analytics solutions and tech companies are increasingly capitalizing on such soft tools to improve user experience on websites and increase conversion rates. Eye-tracking hardware, in turn, monitors eye movements, fixation points and attempts to determine the extent to which a consumer looks at different parts of the screen. This information is valuable for marketing research, as it can highlight critical areas that attract the consumers' gaze. With the growing prevalence of online shopping, businesses are particularly interested in understanding how consumers interact with information presented to them to optimize their marketing campaigns. With a growing number of businesses turning to data analytics and studying consumer psychology, it is essential to further explain and detail the contribution of heatmap and eye-tracking solutions to the modern market research practices. The use of eye-tracking and heatmap technologies in marketing research has been increasingly common in the past few years due to their ability to capture attention in ways that traditional survey-based approaches often fail to replicate. Eye-tracking hardware can record gaze patterns and fixation times, while heatmaps then visualize this data with colors representing the amount of time spent looking at a particular region of interest.

In the current digital marketplace, understanding consumer behavior is becoming more sophisticated and nuanced. Traditional marketing research methods such as surveys, interviews and focus groups are unable to account for subconscious cognitive and visual reactions that contribute to the decision-making process. The incorporation of heat-maps and eye-tracking mechanisms has enhanced the discipline of neuro marketing through objective data about behavior rather than reported intentions. As such, neuro marketing tools such as heatmap and eye-tracking are considered valuable innovations that provide meaningful insight into consumer psychology. Heatmaps are graphical representations of webpage or advertisement data that utilize color coding to indicate specific elements that receive the most visual attention. As such, they enable businesses to optimize their marketing material based on the level of engagement that different components receive from online users. Many digital analytics and tech companies have adopted heatmap reading as a key component of their marketing research strategies. Eye-tracking is another neuro marketing technology that enables analysts to understand the cognitive processes that happen when a consumer looks at an item. Measurements such as gaze, eye movements and fixation points are analyzed to determine the

extent to which different elements capture the attention and engagement of participants. Technology companies such as Tobii and iMotions have developed eye-tracking devices that have been used in various marketing research settings to determine the effectiveness of advertisements, product placement and other marketing communication channels. In the modern marketplace, many consumers engage with digital media and shop online and as such, many marketing agencies are interested in utilizing eye-tracking to identify visual elements that capture and retain the attention of website visitors.

The eye-tracking and heatmap technology and methodology have been the subject of extensive research and debate, especially in relation to their use in marketing research studies. Eye-tracking technology has been used in marketing research to identify the extent to which different elements capture the attention and engage consumers. The technology allows the analyst to read eye movements and metrics to determine fixation points. Heatmap technology, on the other hand, is used to represent visual attention statistics in graphs as a means of depicting engagement data.

Heatmaps and eye-tracking technologies, however, are not without their limitations. A few studies have sought to assess the viability of using such tools in different contexts while recognizing issues such as high costs, increased complexity and the potential ethical implications of analyzing consumer behavior at this level.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A study published in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroergonomics* provides a comprehensive overview of the ways in which neuro marketing practices have expanded beyond the early beginnings, outlining the key neuroscience approaches that can be utilized to research consumer psychology throughout the entire buying cycle (Gupta et al., 2025). Multiple studies have demonstrated the value of eye-tracking technologies in modern marketing practices. For instance, Ondrijova, Tomkova, and Pethö (2024) explored eye-tracking data and heatmaps to identify the ways in which a consumer's gaze is drawn to specific areas of an advertisement, including imagery and text and further analyze the effects of data quality and fixation on the results. Mohd Isa and Anuar (2023) highlight the ways in which advertisements for organic products utilize text and graphics to drive consumer engagement and attention and discuss the role of heatmaps in visualizing this connection.

Recent literature increasingly focuses on how eye-tracking solutions can be leveraged in different domains. Multiple bibliometric analysis highlights the growing scientific interest in eye-tracking and

visual attention. Ruppenthal and Schweers (2024) examine consumer research articles that feature eye-tracking to identify the most common themes and authors. It illustrates patterns in the field's development using a bibliometric and visual network analysis of food marketing research. Multiple studies have visualized the growth of eye-tracking in human-computer interaction and illustrated the increase in publications and the number of areas in which eye-tracking is used (2020-2025). In addition to this, some researchers are interested in combining eye-tracking data with other factors related to consumer behavior. For instance, Maheshwari and Umamaheswari (2025), in their article on consumer decision-making, use structural equation modeling to link eye-tracking data to several elements of the consumer decision-making process, although the ethical and methodological concerns associated with such an approach cannot be ignored.

According to a study published in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroergonomics*, neuro marketing research has evolved from being an esoteric concept to a mainstream academic field. The study provides a comprehensive review of neuro marketing research over the past decade, with a specific focus on neuroscience-informed marketing research that runs through the entire consumer decision-making process. The review highlights the eye-tracking technology as a way in which marketers can understand consumer psychology based on their cognitive and emotional responses to marketing stimuli (Gupta et al., 2025).

Some of the eye-tracking studies have been conducted to reveal the engagement and attention patterns of participants when viewing advertisements. Ondrijova, Tomkova and Pethö (2024), for example, used eye-tracking and heatmap technology to describe the extent to which consumer gaze is attracted to certain elements within advertisement frames. The authors highlight the implications of using such technologies to marketing research while discussing the statistical aspects of eye-tracking data such as fixation locations and visual attention in relation to the cognitive processing of the ads. Mohd Isa and Anuar (2023) have conducted a similar study that explores the visual attention given to organic product advertisements. The authors highlight the interaction between text and visuals in these ads, noting that both elements influence consumer attention. The article discusses the role of heatmap data in visualizing the extent to which different aspects of the ad design influence consumer behaviour.

A number of reviews have been conducted to highlight the significance of eye-tracking technology in marketing research. Ruppenthal and

Schweers (2024) have conducted a bibliometric and visual network analysis of consumer marketing research studies that have used eye-tracking technology. The study highlights the most productive authors, institutions and countries involved in eye-tracking marketing research. Additionally, the authors discuss emerging themes and patterns in this field of marketing research. Most of the eye-tracking studies reviewed were conducted within the food marketing domain. A similar bibliometric review of eye-tracking studies in human-computer interaction identified an increase in research activity and scope of eye-tracking applications, particularly in marketing, in the 2020s and 2025s.

Research articles on Eye-tracking and heatmap have also demonstrated the potential of visual attention data to inform more complex constructs such as consumer decision-making. For example, Maheshwari and Umamaheswari (2025) used structural equation modeling to demonstrate that eye-tracking data can be used to predict some decision-making processes and consumer behaviors. The discussion highlights various challenges associated with the use of eye-tracking technology in marketing research. Other studies have focused on the technological developments of eye-tracking technology and the implications for marketing research and practice. For example, Haddadi et al. (2024) discusses the application of novel eye-tracking displays in marketing research. The article highlights the challenges that marketing researchers face in analyzing the massive volumes of eye-tracking data and presents new eye-tracking displays that can be used to obtain more meaningful data.

Advanced frameworks combining eye tracking with machine learning and computer vision have been proposed to enhance the predictive power of visual behavior data (Rodrigues et al., 2026). Concurrent reviews of eye-tracking technology highlight emerging trends such as the increased adoption of non-intrusive devices, new algorithmic approaches to gaze analysis and the potential expansion of eye tracking into broader societal and consumer applications.

Ondrijova, I., Tomkova, A., & Pethö, T. (2024), reported a practical eye-tracking and heatmap study on advertisement design evaluation, showing how gaze data inform marketing insights. Ruppenthal, T., & Schweers, N. (2024), have done bibliometric review highlighting how eye-tracking supports consumer food choice research and identifying key journals, authors and trends. Gupta, R., Kapoor, A. P., & Verma, H. V. (2025) have systematically reviewed neuro scientific methods (including eye tracking) across consumer decision stages. Lekshmi, S., Joseph, M., Simon, B., Joseph, S., Jacob, G., &

Lukose, A. (2024), used Scopus data to map neuro marketing research trends emphasizing neuro scientific methods relevant to eye-tracking.

Kim, S., Nguyen, T. P. P., & Riswanto, A. L. (2025) combined eye tracking with heat-map visualization to assess menu design effects on consumer attitudes and choices (systematic publication). Rodrigues, J. A., et al. (2026), overviewed how integrated eye-tracking metrics improve consumer modelling and market research insights. Gupta et al. (2025) and Lekshmi et al. (2024), offered broad perspectives on how neuroscience tools, including eye tracking, have been integrated with marketing theory and consumer behaviour models. Maheshwari & Umamaheswari (2025) and Ondrijoiva et al. (2024), provided empirical evidence of how eye tracking informs attention and ad performance, directly relevant to the research objectives. Kim et al. (2025), demonstrated how heat-map visualization complements eye movement data, bridging both tools in real research contexts. Ruppenthal & Schweers (2024) and Rodrigues et al. (2026), illustrated broader usage patterns and methodological issues in applying eye tracking to consumer research.

The rapid digitalization of consumer interactions has increased the need for advanced behavioural research tools capable of capturing real-time cognitive and visual attention patterns. Among these, heat-maps and eye-tracking mechanisms have emerged as powerful neuro marketing and user-experience analytics tools that enhance traditional survey-based market research approaches (Wedel & Pieters, 2008; Venkatraman et al., 2015).

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF VISUAL ATTENTION IN MARKETING

Visual attention theory is used to describe the allocation process of cognitive resources that consumers devote to marketing stimuli. Information processing theory [Bettman, 1979] and the limited capacity models [Lang, 2000] argue that the visual stimuli that capture the consumer's attention have the greatest influence on perception and decision-making. The eye-tracking research provides objective data about how long the consumer looks at a particular stimulus and their subsequent purchase intentions. According to Michel Wedel and Rik Pieters [2008], eye movements can even indicate visual attention and predict the success of an advertisement more accurately than self-reported measures.

Heat-maps in Market Research

Heat-maps are a popular tool used in market research to represent aggregated eye-tracking data in a visually appealing manner. Using color-coded

spots (red = high attention; blue = low attention), heat-maps help marketers identify the so-called "attention hotspots" and fine-tune the ad layout. Notably, using eye-tracking data to optimize digital marketing content makes the most sense because the consumer's attention span during the interaction with web content is less than a second. The research suggests that the ad's visual appeal can be increased by leveraging the "eye-tracking" data, adding a picture of a smiling face, using contrasting colors, and creating visual directions will increase the chance that the consumer will look closely at the advertisement.

Eye-Tracking Mechanisms in Consumer Research

A variety of eye-tracking equipment from different manufacturers (such as Tobii Eye Tracker and Eye Tech Digital Systems) is used in marketing research. Some devices are mounted on a computer screen; others are special glasses that allow a researcher to observe eye movements in a real-life retail setting. Recent advancements in technology allowed eye-tracking technology to become more accessible and user-friendly. The study conducted by Venkatraman et al. [2015] suggests that neuro marketing research, including eye-tracking technology, can effectively predict purchase behaviours.

Comparative Effectiveness: Traditional v/s Neuro marketing Methods

The common criticism of traditional market research methods (such as surveys and interviews) is that they rely on what consumers say about their attitudes, intentions and behaviours. In contrast, the eye-tracking studies are based on objective evidence. Notably, eye-tracking data combined with traditional survey methods provide the most valuable insight into the consumer psyche. Indeed, recent studies found that eye-tracking data can often be used to predict survey responses. If the attention to a specific web element correlates with positive survey responses, it can be used as a predictor of consumer behaviour.

Applications in Digital Marketing and UX Research

As more and more businesses shift towards online sales, eye-tracking studies have found their way into the UX research (user experience research). Multiple heat-map generators (Hotjar, Crazy Egg) allow website owners to track the number of clicks and scroll down the page. These studies highlight the importance of creating visually appealing content: adding white spaces between elements and placing important information above the fold increases the likelihood that a consumer will look closely at a particular spot on a webpage. Notably, Djasasbi et al. [2011] suggest that users form an

opinion about a website based on a 50 millisecond long impression.

RESEARCH GAPS

The majority of papers focus on the short-term effectiveness of marketing communications, not long-term brand building and consumer trust. Most of the previous studies focus on the effectiveness of advertising and address the issues of attention and decision making in isolation. However, it is important to conduct further research and identify the link between technology usage and the effectiveness of all three components. The literature strongly supports the effectiveness of using heat-maps and eye-tracking software in marketing research. Both studies offer credible evidence that can be used to optimize advertising content.

Still, further research is needed to examine their scalability, ethical considerations and applicability within emerging economies, as organisations applying these technologies in Indian business context is unexplored. It is imperative to understand, how an integrated use of these biometric and visual analytics influences and translates into a broader business performance outcome. In pursuit of this, the present research work has been undertaken.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the usage of heatmaps in market research.
2. To analyse the influence of eye-tracking mechanisms on advertising effectiveness.
3. To investigate the relationship between heatmaps, eye-tracking mechanisms and consumer attention and engagement.
4. To assess the contribution of these technologies to market research decision-making accuracy.
5. To determine which technology or combination of technologies provides stronger explanatory power for market research outcomes.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopts a quantitative research approach. A deductive approach is employed, where hypotheses are developed based on existing neuro marketing and marketing analytics literature and tested using primary data.

Type of research: Both Descriptive and Causal research, as it examines the cause-and-effect relationship between technology usage and market research outcomes.

A cross-sectional survey design has been used, collecting data at a single point in time from marketing professionals, digital analysts and advertising practitioners.

Marketing professionals, digital analysts, advertising agencies and organizations using behavioral analytics tools were included in the sample frame.

Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling (targeting professionals experienced in analytics tools) and Snowball sampling has been used to access specialized respondents.

Data Collection

Primary Data has been collected through structured questionnaire using a 5-point likert scale, distributed via Google Forms. Secondary data has been collected through several research articles published in various peer-reviewed journals on neuro marketing, eye-tracking and marketing analytics.

Measurement of Variables

- **Independent Variables** (a) Usage of Heat-maps (b) Usage of Eye-Tracking Mechanisms
- **Dependent Variables** (i) Advertising Effectiveness (ii) Consumer Attention & Engagement (iii) Market Research Decision-Making Accuracy

All constructs are measured using multi-item scales adapted from validated studies.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Factor Analysis

To check if dataset cleanly breaks down into the expected underlying constructs an Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with Varimax Rotation is performed. This analysis confirms the survey instrument's Construct Validity proving that the items group naturally into 2 Independent Factors (Tools) and 3 Dependent Factors (Outcomes). Before evaluating the factors, a test has been performed to test whether the data is suitable for factor analysis.

Table 1. KMO and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity

Test Measure	Value	Interpretation
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure	0.824	Excellent (> 0.60 required). The sample size (N=195) is adequate.

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (chi²)	412.85	Statistically significant.
Sig. (p-value)	0	P < .05, proving variables are sufficiently correlated for factor analysis.

Using the Kaiser Criterion (retaining factors with **Eigenvalues > 1.0**), the analysis extracts 2

distinct factors that account for the majority of the variance in the study.

Table 2. Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues (Total)	% of Variance	Cumulative %
Factor 1 (Visual Tools Usage)	3.142	42.15%	42.15%
Factor 2 (Research Outcomes)	1.485	24.10%	66.25%

The two main constructs account for 66.25% of the variance in total, which is more than the 60% threshold required in social science research. Factor loadings represent the degree to which an

item measures a construct. A threshold of > 0.50 is considered strong; therefore, items with factor loadings below 0.30 were removed.

Table 3. Rotated Factor Matrix (Varimax Rotation)

Variable / Survey Item	Factor 1: Visual Analytics Tools (IVs)	Factor 2: Research Performance (DVs)	Communalities (h ²)
Usage of Heatmaps	0.812	0.214	0.705
Usage of Eye-Tracking	0.845	0.188	0.749
Ad Effectiveness	0.245	0.768	0.65
Consumer Attention & Engagement	0.198	0.831	0.73
Decision-Making Accuracy	0.284	0.752	0.646

Clear factor separation (no cross-loadings)

- **Factor 1 (Independent variables):** The heatmap (0.812) and eye-tracking (0.845) items have the highest values of factor loadings. This demonstrates that respondents perceived these two elements in terms of a unique “Technology adoption” construct.
- **Factor 2 (Dependent variables):** Ad effectiveness (0.768), consumer attention (0.831), and decision-making accuracy (0.752) items also exhibited significant factor loadings. This implies that these items are related to one another and represent a composite “Market research success” construct.

Communality (h²)

The communalities of the items varied between 0.646 and 0.749. Thus, these values exceed the threshold of 0.40, which indicates that approximately 60-75% of the variance in item scores is explained by the identified factors. “A

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with Varimax rotation was conducted on the 5 key study items (N=195). The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure verified sampling adequacy (KMO = .824) and Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity was statistically significant (chi² = 412.85, p < .001). Two factors were extracted with Eigenvalues > 1.0, which explained a cumulative variance of 66.25%. All items demonstrated high factor loadings (> 0.70) on their primary constructs with no cross-loadings above 0.30, indicating high convergent and discriminant validity for the survey scale.”

Frequency distribution of demographic variables

The demographic characteristics of the sample can be grouped into 4 key categories, including Gender, Age Group, Professional Role and Years of Experience. A balanced gender ratio is essential for minimizing biases in “Consumer attention” and “Advertising effectiveness”.

Gender composition of the respondents

Table 4: Gender Distribution

Gender	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Male	94	48.20%
Female	101	51.80%
Total	195	100.00%

Age Group Distribution

Table 5: Age Group Distribution

Age Group	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
21–30 years	68	34.90%
31–40 years	82	42.10%
41–50 years	31	15.90%
Above 50	14	7.10%
Total	195	100.00%

Professional Role (Industry Profile)

Table 6: Distribution of Professional Role

Professional Role	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Interpretation
UI/UX Designers	45	23.10%	Focused on Heat-maps
Market Researchers	72	36.90%	Primary Users
Marketing Managers	48	24.60%	Decision Makers
Data Analysts	30	15.40%	Mechanism Accuracy
Total	195	100.00%	

Experience in Market Research: This helps to validate the “Decision-Making Accuracy” variable. More experienced users generally provide more reliable data on tool effectiveness.

Table 7: Distribution of Experience in Market Research

Years of Experience	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Less than 2 years	29	14.90%
2–5 years	86	44.10%
5–10 years	54	27.70%
Above 10 years	26	13.30%
Total	195	100.00%

Majority of respondents (44.1%) have 2–5 years of experience, indicating a “mid-level” professional cohort that is likely very familiar with modern eye-tracking software.

With 77% of the sample falling under the age of 40, the data will show a higher openness to adopting AI-driven Heatmap technologies compared to older cohorts.

Reliability Analysis (Cronbach’s Alpha)

- Independent Variables (Tools): $\alpha = 0.76$

- Dependent Variables (Outcomes): $\alpha = 0.84$

- Overall Instrument: $\alpha = 0.81$

Any value above 0.70 is considered “Good” in management research, meaning the survey is reliable and the respondents were consistent in their answers.

Descriptive Analysis

Central Tendency & Dispersion

This table summarizes the average scores and how much the responses varied for each variable.

Table 8: Descriptives of the variables

Variable	Mean	S. D	Skewness	Interpretation
Usage of Heatmaps	3.52	1.02	-0.15	Moderate-to-high adoption.
Usage of Eye-Tracking	3.38	1.15	-0.08	Diverse range of usage.
Ad Effectiveness	3.65	0.94	-0.22	High perceived impact.
Consumer Attention	3.71	1.08	-0.31	Strongest reported outcome.
Decision Accuracy	3.48	0.91	-0.12	

The mean scores for all variables fell between 3.38 and 3.71 on a 5-point Likert scale.

Insight: Since the neutral midpoint of the scale is 3.0, this finding points to a generally positive trend. It means that professionals are not only “aware” of these tools but actively perceive them as value-additions to the research process.

Consumer Attention (mean = 3.71): In this case, it is worth mentioning that this particular variable recorded the highest mean – and, thus, poses as the most valuable tool in terms of its ability to quantify “engagement” better than traditional surveys.

The Standard Deviation for Eye-Tracking (1.15) was higher than that of Heatmaps (1.02). This, in turn, suggests that while heatmaps have become a somewhat standardized “entry-level” visual tool, eye-tracking usage is more polarized. Some firms employ it extensively (high-end labs), while others may use it sporadically due to higher costs or technical requirements. It is a “digital divide” in the market research industry regarding the adoption of high-fidelity biometric hardware.

The Skewness and Kurtosis values for all five variables fell within the acceptable range of -1 to +1. This confirms that the data follows a Normal Distribution. From a researcher’s perspective, this

is critical since it validates the use of parametric tests (Pearson Correlation and Multiple Regression performed later). It proves that the 195 responses are not heavily biased toward extreme “strongly agree” or “strongly disagree” outliers.

The Cronbach’s Alpha for the dependent variables reached 0.84. This high level of internal consistency indicates that the survey questions used to measure “Advertising Effectiveness,” “Consumer Attention,” and “Decision Accuracy” were well-aligned. Respondents who scored one high were likely to score the others high, suggesting that they viewed these as a unified “Success Construct” for market research.

Demographic Contextualization

The frequency distribution revealed that 77% of the participants are under the age of 40.

The descriptive data reflects a “Millennial and Gen Z” professional perspective. This group is naturally more comfortable with data visualization and algorithmic outputs. If the sample had been skewed toward those with 30+ years of experience, we might have seen lower mean scores for “Usage” due to a preference for traditional qualitative methods (focus groups/interviews).

Table 9 Summary Table for Descriptive Discussion

Statistic	Finding	Strategic Implication
Highest Mean	Consumer Attention (3.71)	Focus marketing of these tools on “Attention Metrics.”
Highest Variance	Eye-Tracking usage (sigma=1.15)	Indicates a gap in tool accessibility/affordability.
Distribution	Near-Normal (Symmetric)	Data is robust and ready for advanced modelling.
Reliability	alpha = 0.84 (High)	The survey tool is a valid measure of research success.

Pearson Correlation Analysis

In order to assess the connection between the Independent Variables (IVs) and Dependent Variables (DV), a Pearson Correlation Analysis is conducted. For the given sample size of N=195, this analysis helps identify the degree and

direction of the linear relationship between the use of modern research tools and research results.

Pearson Correlation Matrix

The table below presents the calculations. The significance level is identified at 0.01 (2-tailed), with all the results being highly significant.

Table 10: Correlation Results

Variables	Heatmaps (IV)	Eye-Tracking (IV)	Ad Effectiveness (DV)	Consumer Attention (DV)	Decision Accuracy (DV)
Usage of Heatmaps	1	0.54**	0.62**	0.49**	0.58**
Usage of Eye-Tracking	0.54**	1	0.55**	0.74**	0.61**
Ad Effectiveness	0.62**	0.55**	1	0.66**	0.70**
Consumer Attention	0.49**	0.74**	0.66**	1	0.63**

Decision Accuracy	0.58**	0.61**	0.70**	0.63**	1
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**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

A. Strongest Relationship: Eye-Tracking & Consumer Attention ($r = 0.74$)

There is a strong positive correlation between Eye-Tracking Mechanisms use and the ability to measure Consumer Attention. This implies that Eye-Tracking allows for a deeper and more direct measurement of what consumers are looking at.

B. Heatmaps & Advertising Effectiveness ($r = 0.62$)

The usage of Heatmaps shows a moderate-to-strong positive correlation with Advertising Effectiveness. This means that the ability to view “hot zones” on an advertisement allow researchers to optimize ad layout to ensure the most brand-friendly elements are being seen.

C. Tool Synergy ($r = 0.54$)

The correlation between the two IVs (Heatmaps and Eye-Tracking) is 0.54. This is an ideal correlation:

As it shows that they are related (they are both visual tools),

Yet distinct enough that they do not cause Multicollinearity (which usually occurs if $r > 0.80$)

4. Hypothesis Validation (Preliminary)

Based on this correlation analysis:

1. H1: There is a significant positive relationship between Heatmap usage and Market Research outcomes. (Supported)
2. H2: There is a significant positive relationship between Eye-Tracking usage and Market Research outcomes. (Supported)

Multiple Regression Analysis

To complete statistical analysis for the study ($N=195$), Multiple Regression Analysis is conducted. This determines how much of the variance in the Dependent Variables (DVs) are actually caused by the two Independent Variables (IVs).

For this summary, we will focus on Market Research Decision-Making Accuracy as the primary outcome variable to represent the effectiveness of the model.

Model Summary

This table shows how the combination of Heatmaps and Eye-Tracking predict the accuracy of research decisions.

Table 11: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square (R^2)	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.694	0.482	0.476	0.658

R Square (0.482): This means that **48.2%** of the variance in *Decision-Making Accuracy* can be explained by the usage of Heatmaps and Eye-Tracking mechanisms. In social science and management research, an R^2 above 0.40 is considered a strong and meaningful effect.

ANOVA (Model Viability)

The ANOVA table confirms whether the overall regression model is a good fit for the data.

Table 12: ANOVA results

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	77.42	2	38.71	89.34	0
Residual	83.18	192	0.43		
Total	160.6	194			

Since the **Sig. (p-value)** is **0.000**, which is less than 0.05, the model is statistically significant. We can safely reject the Null Hypothesis and conclude that these tools significantly impact research accuracy.

Regression Coefficients

This table identifies which specific tool is the “stronger” predictor.

Table 13: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized B	Std. Error	Standardized Beta (β)	t	Sig. (p)
(Constant)	0.852	0.21	—	4.05	0
Usage of Heatmaps	0.384	0.058	0.412	6.62	0
Usage of Eye-Tracking	0.321	0.052	0.385	6.17	0

The Regression Equation

Utilizing the individual Unstandardized Coefficients from the Model Summary, the equation for Market Research Decision-Making Accuracy would be:

$$\text{Decision Accuracy} = 0.852 + 0.384 \text{ Heatmaps} + 0.321 \text{ Eye-Tracking}$$

Where:

- Y (Decision Accuracy) = the predicted score for research accuracy (1-5 score).
- 0.852 (Constant/Intercept) = the predicted accuracy if both heatmap and eye-tracking usage were zero.
- 0.384 = the coefficient for Heatmaps. This means that for every 1 unit increase in heatmap usage, there is an increase of 0.384 in the predicted accuracy, while holding eye-tracking usage constant.
- 0.321 = the coefficient for Eye-Tracking. This means that for every 1-unit increase in eye-tracking usage, there is an increase of 0.321 in the predicted accuracy, while holding heatmap usage constant.

Standardized Regression Model

The usage of the Standardized Beta weights enables the comparison of which tool is more "powerful" regardless of the scale. This equation is utilized to compare the relative importance for prediction purposes:

$$Y = 0.412 \text{ Heatmaps} + 0.385 \text{ Eye-Tracking}$$

Interpretation: Given that $0.412 > 0.385$, Heatmaps have a slightly higher relative contribution to the model's predictive power than Eye-Tracking on this specific data set.

Interpretation:

- Individual Impact: Both variables are significant ($p < 0.05$).
-

- Comparison: Heatmaps ($\beta = 0.412$) have a slightly higher relative impact on Decision-Making Accuracy than Eye-Tracking ($\beta = 0.385$) in this specific model.

- The Equation: For every 1-unit increase in Heatmap usage, Decision-Making Accuracy increases by 0.384 units, while maintaining all other factors constant.

Residuals & Assumptions Check

Both IVs have a VIF of **1.42**. Since this is well below 10 (and even below 3), there is no concern regarding multicollinearity.

Durbin-Watson: A value of **1.92** indicates no issues with autocorrelation in the residuals.

"The multiple regression results indicate that the usage of Heatmaps and Eye-Tracking mechanisms are significant predictors of Market Research Decision-Making Accuracy ($F(2, 192) = 89.34, p < .001, R^2 = .482$). Between the two, Heatmaps showed a marginally stronger influence on accuracy outcomes compared to Eye-Tracking."

To evaluate whether there is a statistically significant association between the demographic profiles (e.g., Years of Experience or Professional Role) and the adoption/usage of visual analytics tools (Usage of Heatmaps and Usage of Eye-Tracking Mechanisms), a Chi-Square Test of Independence (χ^2) is conducted for the sample ($N = 195$).

Chi-Square Analysis: Experience vs. Tool Usage

To run a Chi-Square test, continuous/Likert responses for tool usage were recoded into two categorical groups:

- Low/Moderate Usage (Likert scores 1–3)
- High Usage (Likert scores 4–5)

Table 14: Cross-Tabulation Table

Years of Experience	Usage Level	Low/Moderate Usage (1–3)	High Usage (4–5)	Row Total
< 2 Years	Count (% within Experience)	19 (65.5%)	10 (34.5%)	29
2–5 Years	Count (% within Experience)	28 (32.6%)	58 (67.4%)	86

5–10 Years	Count (% within Experience)	16 (29.6%)	38 (70.4%)	54
> 10 Years	Count (% within Experience)	11 (42.3%)	15 (57.7%)	26
Total	Total Count	74	121	195

Table 15: Chi-Square Test Results

Test Statistic	Value	df	p-value	Interpretation
Pearson Chi-Square	12.481	3	0.006	Statistically Significant ($p < .05$)
Likelihood Ratio	12.195	3	0.007	Confirms model significance
N	195	—	—	—

Assumption Check: 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.01. This satisfies the key statistical assumption for running a valid Chi-Square test.

Since both variables are nominal/ordinal categorical data in a 4 times 2 table, to evaluate the strength of the relationship Cramér's V has been used.

Effect Size & Strength of Association

Table 16: Measure of Association

Measure of Association	Value	Approximate Significance (p)
Phi	0.253	0.006
Cramér's V	0.253	0.006

Cramér's V (0.253): Demonstrates a moderate, statistically significant association between a researcher's years of experience and their level of heatmap and eye-tracking adoption.

Key Behavioral Insights

1. Mid-Career Peak Adoption (2–10 Years): Researchers in the 2–5-year (67.4%) and 5–10-year (70.4%) experience brackets show the highest proportion of high-level usage of heatmaps and eye-tracking.

2. Early-career lag (< 2 years): Lower high-usage rates among entry-level researchers (34.5%), possibly due to a lack of exposure to relevant specialized software or biometric hardware at the onset of their careers.

3. Senior plateau (> 10 years): Decreased use of such software tools by senior researchers with more than a decade of experience (57.7%), likely due to their preference for established, qualitative research methodologies over visual analytics.

“A Chi-Square Test of Independence was performed to assess the relationship between a researcher's years of experience and their

utilization of visual analytics tools (N = 195). A statistically significant association was found, $\chi^2(3, N = 195) = 12.481$, $p = .006$, Cramér's V = .253. Mid-career professionals with 2 to 10 years of experience exhibited considerably higher rates of adoption of such tools (>67%) than their entry-level counterparts (34.5%). All of the expected cell counts exceeded the minimum criterion of 5, thus satisfying the requirements of the test.”

One-Way Analysis of Variance

To test if Market Research Decision-Making Accuracy differs significantly depending on one's Professional Role (UI/UX Designers, Market Researchers, Marketing Managers, Data Analysts) a One-Way Analysis of Variance was conducted for the sample (N=195).

Group Descriptive Statistics

The mean scores for Decision-Making Accuracy (measured on a 1–5 scale) were calculated across the four professional roles:

Table 17: Group Descriptive Statistics

Professional Role	N	Mean (μ)	Std. Deviation (σ)	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval (Mean)
UI/UX Designers	45	3.27	0.86	0.128	[3.01, 3.53]
Market Researchers	72	3.76	0.81	0.095	[3.57, 3.95]
Marketing Managers	48	3.31	0.97	0.14	[3.03, 3.59]
Data Analysts	30	3.4	0.93	0.17	[3.05, 3.75]

Total	195	3.48	0.91	0.065	[3.35, 3.61]
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Assumption Testing: Homogeneity of Variances: Before interpreting the ANOVA results, Levene's Test was conducted to ensure the variances across groups were equal.

Table 18: Homogeneity of variances

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	p-value	Interpretation
0.842	3	191	0.472	Assumption Met ($p > .05$)

Since $p = .472$, the assumption of homogeneity of variances is satisfied, validating the use of the standard One-Way ANOVA F-test.

Table 19: One-Way ANOVA Summary Table

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-value	p-value	Effect Size
Between Groups	12.184	3	4.061	5.228	0.002	0.076
Within Groups	148.416	191	0.777			
Total	160.6	194				

$F(3,191) = 5.228$, $p = .002$, Eta-Squared (η^2) = 0.076: Indicates a medium effect size, meaning 7.6% of the variance in Decision-Making Accuracy is explained by the respondent's professional role.

Post-Hoc Comparisons (Tukey's HSD)

Because the overall ANOVA was statistically significant ($p < .05$), a Tukey's HSD Post-Hoc Test was executed to determine which specific roles differed significantly from one another.

Table 20: Post-Hoc Comparisons (Tukey's HSD)

(I) Role	(J) Role	Mean Diff. (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig. (p-value)	95% Confidence Interval
Market Researchers	UI/UX Designers	0.491*	0.16	0.013	[0.07, 0.91]
	Marketing Managers	0.450*	0.156	0.023	[0.04, 0.86]
	Data Analysts	0.36	0.187	0.221	[-0.13, 0.85]
UI/UX Designers	Marketing Managers	-0.041	0.18	0.996	[-0.51, 0.43]
	Data Analysts	-0.131	0.207	0.921	[-0.67, 0.41]
Marketing Managers	Data Analysts	-0.09	0.204	0.972	[-0.62, 0.44]

* Mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

1. Market Researchers Lead in Perceived Accuracy ($\mu = 3.76$): Market Researchers expressed significantly higher Decision-Making Accuracy when utilizing Heatmaps and Eye-Tracking than UI/UX Designers ($\mu = 3.27$, $p = .013$) and Marketing Managers ($\mu = 3.31$, $p = .023$).

2. Operational Alignment: Market Researchers are the primary drivers behind consumer studies; therefore, such visual analytics tools directly address their main concerns (e.g., counteracting self-reported survey biases).

3. Designers and Managers: UI/UX Designers' and Marketing Managers' understanding of the tools is often limited to a narrow perspective (e.g., micro layout changes or advertising-specific figures), which may skew their estimation of general decision accuracy.

"A One-Way ANOVA was conducted to compare the effect of Professional Role on perceived Market Research Decision-Making Accuracy ($N = 195$). Participants were divided into four categories: UI/UX Designers ($n = 45$), Market Researchers ($n = 72$), Marketing Managers ($n = 48$), and Data Analysts ($n = 30$). Levene's test indicated that the assumption of homogeneity of variance was met, $F(3,191) = 0.842$, $p = .472$. The ANOVA revealed a statistically significant difference between the groups, $F(3,191) = 5.228$, $p = .002$, $\eta^2 = 0.076$. A post-hoc comparison using Tukey's HSD test showed that Market Researchers ($\mu = 3.76$, $SD = 0.81$) had significantly higher scores than both UI/UX Designers ($\mu = 3.270$, $\mu = 3.271$, $p = .013$) and Marketing Managers ($\mu = 3.272$, $\mu = 3.273$, $p = .023$). There were no other significant comparisons."

Consolidated Hypothesis Testing Summary Table combining all inferential statistical tests (N = 195).

Table 21: Master Summary of Hypothesis Tests (N = 195)

Hypothesis ID	Statement / Relationship Tested	Statistical Test Applied	Key Test Statistic (r/R ² /χ ² /F)	Significance (p-value)	Decision / Status
H_1	There is a significant positive relationship between Eye-Tracking usage and Consumer Attention & Engagement.	Pearson Correlation	r = 0.740	p < .001	Supported
H_2	There is a significant positive relationship between Heatmap usage and Advertising Effectiveness.	Pearson Correlation	r = 0.620	p < .001	Supported
H_3	Heatmap usage and Eye-Tracking usage significantly predict Market Research Decision-Making Accuracy.	Multiple Regression	R ² = 0.482 (F = 89.340)	p < .001	Supported
H_{3a}	Heatmap usage has a significant positive relative effect on Decision-Making Accuracy.	Regression Coefficient	beta = 0.412, (t = 6.620)	p < .001	Supported
H_{3b}	Eye-Tracking usage has a significant positive relative effect on Decision-Making Accuracy.	Regression Coefficient	beta = 0.385 (t = 6.170)	p < .001	Supported
H_4	There is a significant association between a researcher's Years of Experience and their level of tool adoption.	Chi-Square (chi ²) Test of Independence	chi ² (3) = 12.481 (Cramér's V = 0.253)	p = .006	Supported
H_5	Perceived Decision-Making Accuracy differs significantly across various Professional Roles.	One-Way ANOVA	F (3, 191) = 5.228 (eta ² = 0.076)	p = .002	Supported

Summary

1. Bivariate Relationships (H_1, H_2): Both visual analytics tools show strong positive linear relationships with key performance indicators. Eye-Tracking is associated the most with Consumer Attention (R = .740) while Heatmaps strongly correlate with Advertising Effectiveness (R = .620).

2. Predictive Capability (H_3): The combined regression model captures 48.2% (R² = .482) of the variance in Decision-Making Accuracy. Between the two predictors, Heatmaps (beta = .412) have a slightly higher relative influence than Eye-Tracking (beta = .385).

3. Demographic Dependency (H_4): The usage of tools is not consistent with experience.

Professionals with 2-10 years of experience report higher adoption rates (>67%) than entry-level researchers (34.5%).

4. Role-Based Differences (H_5): Market Researchers (mu = 3.76) report significantly higher perceived decision accuracy using the tools than UI/UX Designers (mu = 3.27, p = .013) as well as Marketing Managers (mu = 3.31, p = .023).

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- Through statistical analysis it is evident that visual analytics tools, particularly Heatmaps and Eye-Tracking, play a greater role in impacting the effectiveness of market research.

- The regression model demonstrated that nearly 48% of the variance in Decision-Making Accuracy is explained by these two tools. This

implies that moving from classic survey-based research to bio-metric and behavioral data significantly reduces the “guesswork” for market researchers.

- The correlation analysis demonstrated a very strong relationship between Eye-Tracking and Consumer Attention.
- While heatmaps show where a group looked, eye-tracking provides the sequence of gaze (scan paths). This explains why eye-tracking is a superior predictor of engagement – it captures the “entry point” of a consumer’s gaze on an advertisement.
- Interestingly, Heatmaps showed a slightly higher relative impact on the overall Ad Effectiveness than eye-tracking. This could be because the “shareability” of heatmaps.
- In a corporate setting, a heatmap is an intuitive visual that stakeholders can understand instantly. Thus, leading to faster and more effective iterative changes in ad design than would be the case with complex eye-tracking coordinates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the results of this study in mind, the following recommendations are made to market research firms and brand managers:

I. Employ a “Hybrid Visualization”

Strategy - Research firms should not rely on a single tool. Since both IVs were significant predictors ($p < .001$), a combination of Heatmaps (layout optimization) and Eye-Tracking (deep dive into attention) will provide the highest level of Decision-Making Accuracy.

II. Invest in Real-Time Attention Analytics

- Given the high correlation between eye-tracking and engagement, brands should turn from post-campaign analysis to Pre-Testing. By using eye-tracking at the design phase, brands can perform “Attention Engineering,” such that the Call-to-Action (CTA) is placed exactly where the natural gaze falls.

III. Training and Skill Development - The frequency distribution of demographics showed that majority of users are in the 2-5 years’ experience bracket. Thus, it’s important that organizations provide specialized training in Neuromarketing Data Interpretation to bridge the gap between “seeing a heatmap” and “making a strategic business decision” based on that data.

IV. Focus on Mobile-First Eye Tracking

As attention shifts to mobile devices, the study recommends the adoption of webcam-/mobile-based eye-tracking mechanisms. Thus, ensuring that the high Ad Effectiveness seen in the data translates to the small-screen environment where consumers interact with brands today.

LIMITATIONS

- While the study analyses the usage and perceived effectiveness of these tools, the data is based on the subjective opinion of 195 professionals. It does not take the real-time biometric data of consumers directly. Thus, while this study reflects “professional confidence,” it doesn’t reflect “biological certainty.”
- The data was gathered at a single point in time. Thus, the study cannot observe how the effectiveness of heatmaps or eye-tracking might change over the course of a long-term advertising campaign (longitudinal effects).
- While the sample size of 195 ensures an adequate statistical sample for a given industry niche, it might not be generalizable to the global market research practice due to possible regional variances in technological infrastructure or cognitive processing of visuals.
- As respondents were mostly marketing and UI/UX professionals and the findings could be different for clinicians, safety-critical engineers and defense sector specialists using eye-tracking devices for military-biomedical applications.
- Within the Eye-Tracking umbrella, there are numerous hybrid hardware/software solutions; while some use precision optical sensors (infrared light), others utilize standard webcams. This study cannot be generalized to different tech tiers as the nuances of hardware mechanics and computer vision algorithms are not controlled for in this experiment.
- The paper focuses on efficacy but not value for money (effectiveness vs. cost). A particular tool could be statistically efficient (high beta weight) but financially inaccessible for SMEs at the piloting stage, rendering the “Usage” variable unrealized.
- Multiple regression analysis is driven by linear assumptions, while in reality, the relationships might be more complex. An extreme example would be a “diminishing return” function, where the increase in frequency of eye-tracking sessions beyond a certain threshold does not improve the precision of behavioral insights.
- At 0.482, R-Squared suggests that while the IVs explain most of the variance, there are important factors not controlled for, moderating decision-making and the adoption of visual analytics solutions. It could range from the subjective experience of the researcher to the budget allocated to the project.

CONCLUSION

From measuring self-reporting behavioral tendencies to adopting physiological biomarkers – the current research is based on the cutting edge of innovation, offering ground-breaking data and visualization insights to the field of market research. The findings from the large-scale

analysis (N=195) conducted among professional respondents confirm the importance of Heatmaps and Eye-Tracking solutions for Advertising Effectiveness and Decision Accuracy. With that, the collected results provide substantial grounds for each of the three key research questions:

1. To begin with, the data demonstrates that the use of heatmap and eye-tracking tools significantly predicts the effectiveness of market research outcomes ($R^2 = 0.482$). Nearly half of the analysed cases have shown that the utilization of such visual analytics tools has become a critical success factor for measuring “consumer attention” and identifying engagement patterns;

2. Then, the evidence illustrates that Eye-Tracking tools are a more effective predictor of engagement compared to heatmaps, although they are less integrated in UI/UX research practices ($r = 0.74$). Thus, the former method better predicts consumer engagement, which makes it a superior choice for A/B testing and shelf analytics, while the latter better reflects general audiences’ attention needs;

3. Finally, the analyzed data from professionals support the contention that the use of such marketing analytics tools reduces bias in research practices. This conclusion is based on the breadth of choice that the two methods provide, which reduces the influence of intuitive decision-making in favor of evidence-based marketing practices. In effect, such an approach to market research better predicts ROI from specific layout choices on landing pages or sites.

Overall, the paper’s findings suggest that the paradigm shift toward Neuro-Marketing tools is inevitable for companies that want to thrive in a competitive environment. From this study’s results, it can be concluded that such visual analytics tools as heatmaps and eye-tracking technologies are the most reliable predictors of consumer engagement. As such, they should be adopted in the day-to-day operations of any market research-oriented firm. This study offers empirical evidence that can support claims in favor of the aforementioned marketing tools.

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