

Unlocking Digital for Bharat

\$50 Billion Opportunity





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	03
Executive summary	04
Untapped potential	05
Decoding barriers	13
User interventions	39
Business implications	57

Introduction

- While India has made significant progress in enabling internet access for its population (lower data prices, cost of smartphones coming down, etc.), large disparities exist in internet usage across:
 - Demographics and socio-economic classes (across gender, rural/urban, income groups)
 - Type and nature of internet usage (content consumption, service transactions, product transactions, etc.)
- We believe the next wave of innovation in India needs to focus on serving the unique needs of 500M+ population base, which is either using the internet or making a transaction on the internet for the first time
- This research focused on developing insights on understanding key user barriers and interventions required across various stages of the user journey, with the following objectives:
 - Understand the barriers preventing new users from coming online and existing users transacting online
 - Define potential interventions required to enable existing users to use the full power of the internet
 - Highlight implications for businesses

Executive summary

Untapped potential

India has the second-highest active Internet users, with about 390 million residents who use the web at least once a month. The country has also experienced the highest increase in internet users, with an average of 40 million beginning gaining access each year. Further, mobile data use (~8 GB per subscriber each month) has reached the level of developed markets.

But challenges remain. Compared with China and Brazil, India's penetration of 28% falls behind the 64% in Brazil and the 53% in China. Internet access across demographics varies widely with 55% penetration in urban areas vs. just 15% in rural areas. Also, 33% of men have internet access compared with only 22% of women. Additionally, online retail spending is low—\$224 per individual buyer per year—almost one-tenth of the ecommerce spending in China.

Decoding barriers

More than 500 million new internet users and online shoppers will gain access, but barriers exist. For example, the access is not equitable across socioeconomic classes. Of the 390 million internet users, 80% are from the relatively affluent NCCS segment A, B and C alone. The lower-income NCCS D and E segments have a mere 13% penetration vs. 73% across NCCS segment A. The number of users making online transactions is small: Of the 390 million users, only 40% make purchases online. 90% of that base is from NCCS segments A, B and C.

Because 60% of users (or 230 million) go online for product research and content but prefer to make purchases offline, there is a major opportunity to unlock that broader user base. But the journey to becoming a regular user requires building trust: Typical users take three to four months from their initial internet access to their first transaction. The more time they spend online, the more their trust increases. New users make just 27% of purchases online, but users who have been online for two or more years make 61% of their purchases via online channels.

It is critical to engage and retain users with relevant content. A large number of transactors (54 million) from NCCS A, B and C segments actually drop out after making a purchase, indicating a large opportunity to re-engage with these set of users to broaden the transaction base.

User interventions

Four actions can increase awareness, use and transactions among current users and the next set of online shoppers.

First, government and private partnerships can create access, awareness and literacy, enabling 370 million people in NCCS segments A, B and C—and many more across NCCS segments D and E—to get online. Next, locally-relevant solutions across content and use cases will improve user-engagement and unlock those 130 million new users by doubling internet penetration in rural areas and increasing women's participation. Third, creating an ecosystem for the self-employed to diversify and augment income via digital will be influential on the nearly 40% of the workforce across 46 million micro, small and medium enterprises. Finally, improving trust with an omnichannel presence will increase purchase consideration, transactions and retention. Trust will also reinforce product quality in brand messaging and ease concerns about product returns by redefining return policies and messaging around them.

There is a \$50 billion-plus potential that could be unlocked via these new users and reengaging users who have dropped out.

Business implications

Profitability and scale will take time. Tech-enabled businesses should brace for the long haul and implement alternate monetisation strategies. Consumers' willingness and ability to spend online will be low over the medium term, limited by low GDP per capita. Businesses will need to find frugal and innovative ways to sustain themselves over the longer term and at the same time, should consider alternate monetisation approaches beyond consumers.

1 Active user: Used internet in last 1 month

2 NCCS: New Consumer Classification System

A black and white photograph of two hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The hands are positioned in the center and right of the frame, with fingers pressing down on the keys. The keyboard is dark-colored with light-colored lettering. The background is a light, out-of-focus surface. A semi-transparent dark grey horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, containing the text "Untapped potential" in white. A solid red horizontal line is located on the left side of the image, and another solid red horizontal line is on the right side, both positioned below the dark grey band.

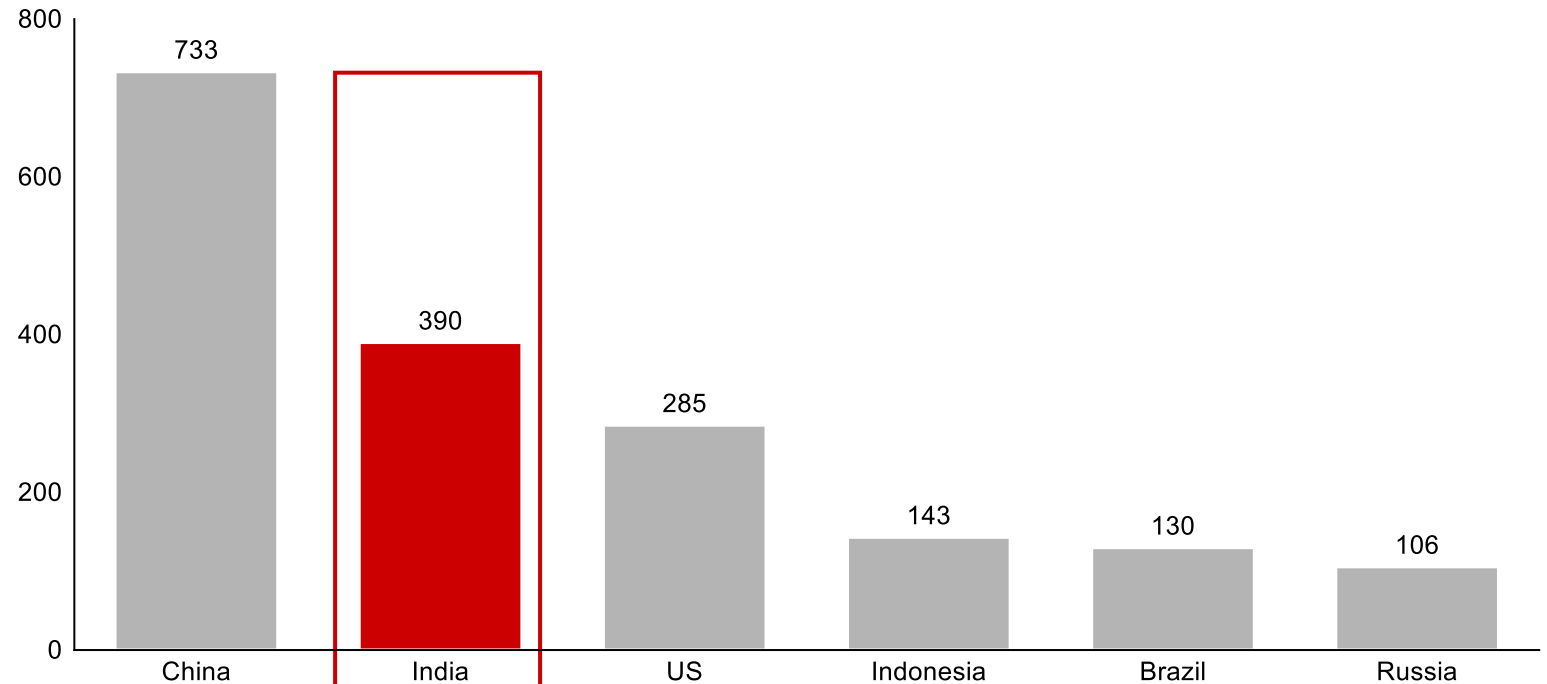
Untapped potential

India has the second-highest number of Internet users (390 million) globally, with substantial room for growth (28% penetration)

Strong growth trajectory in building a 390 million Internet user base, with large growth headroom.

- ✓ About one in five people in India currently owns a smartphone. This number has doubled since 2014 and is projected to cross 400 million (nearly 30% of the population) over the next three to four years.
- ✓ While the number of 3G/4G subscriptions in India has quadrupled since 2014 and is expected to continue growing, nearly two-thirds of the telecom subscriber base is still on 2G.

Total number of Internet users in 2017 (Millions)



Internet penetration in 2017	53%	28%	88%	54%	64%	74%
Smartphone penetration in 2017	45%	22%	67%	26%	37%	47%

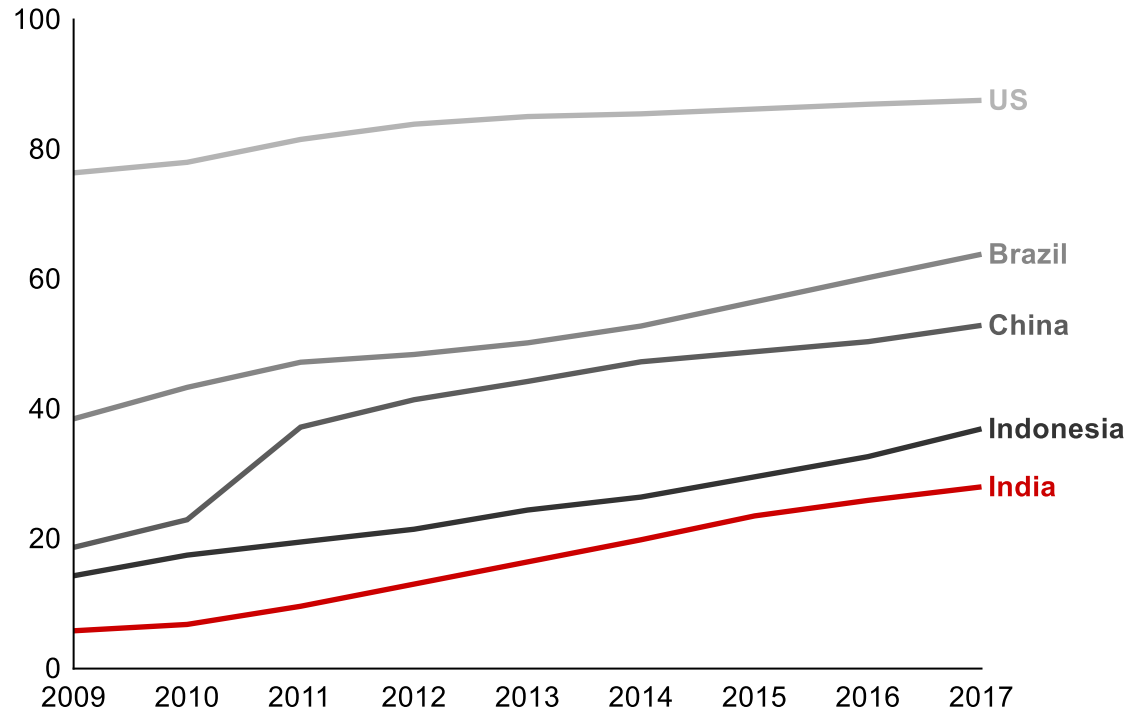
Notes: Penetration numbers are defined as a percentage of total population; Internet users are defined as the population using the Internet at least once a month; smartphone penetration is defined as the number of users who own at least one smartphone and use it at least once per month

Sources: Forrester; eMarketer (smartphone penetration); IMRB I-CUBE (Internet users for India); 3G/4G subscriber data from Ovum; APJII Indonesia

India lags China and Brazil in Internet penetration, but its user growth has been the highest: more than 40 million new users on average per year since 2013

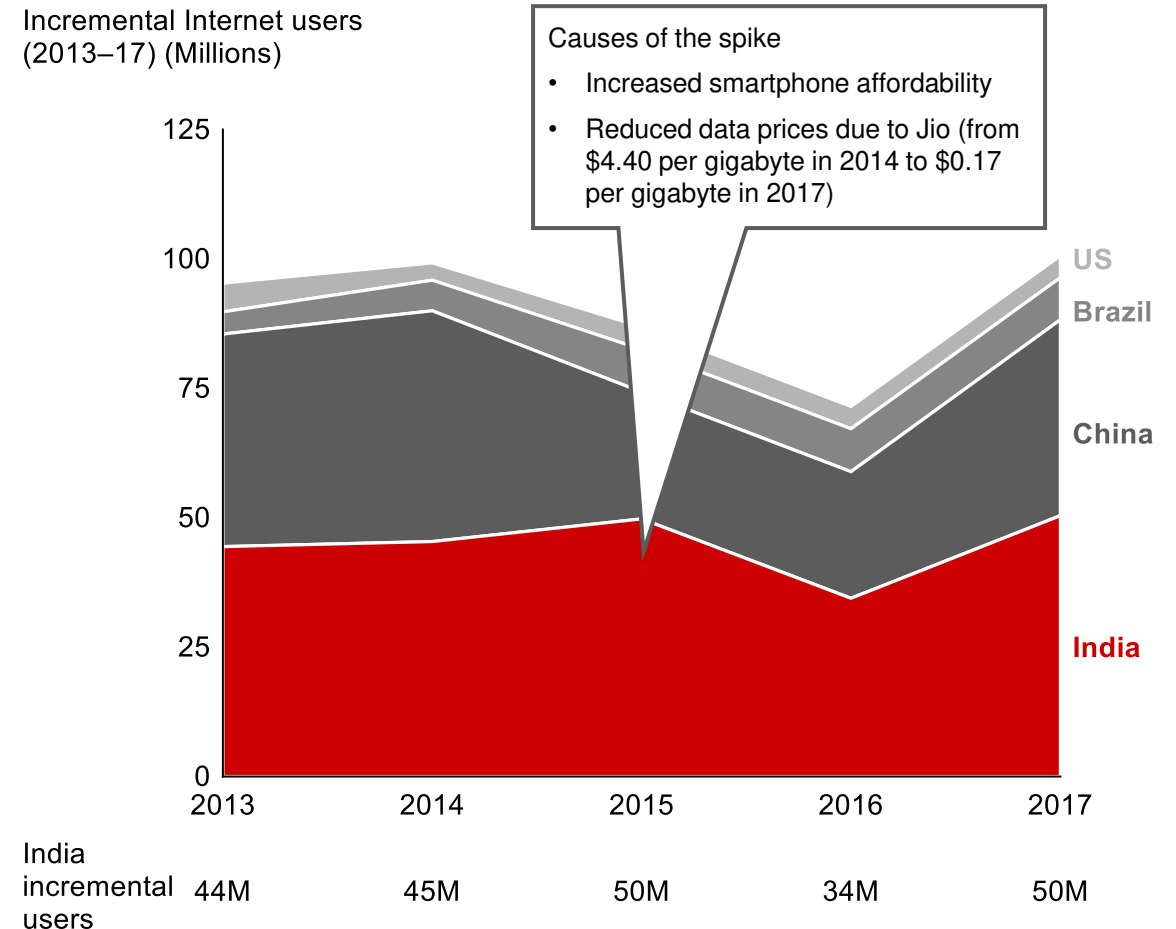
India lags China and Brazil in Internet penetration ...

Internet penetration as a percentage of the total population (2009–17) (%)



... But shows strong growth in user base

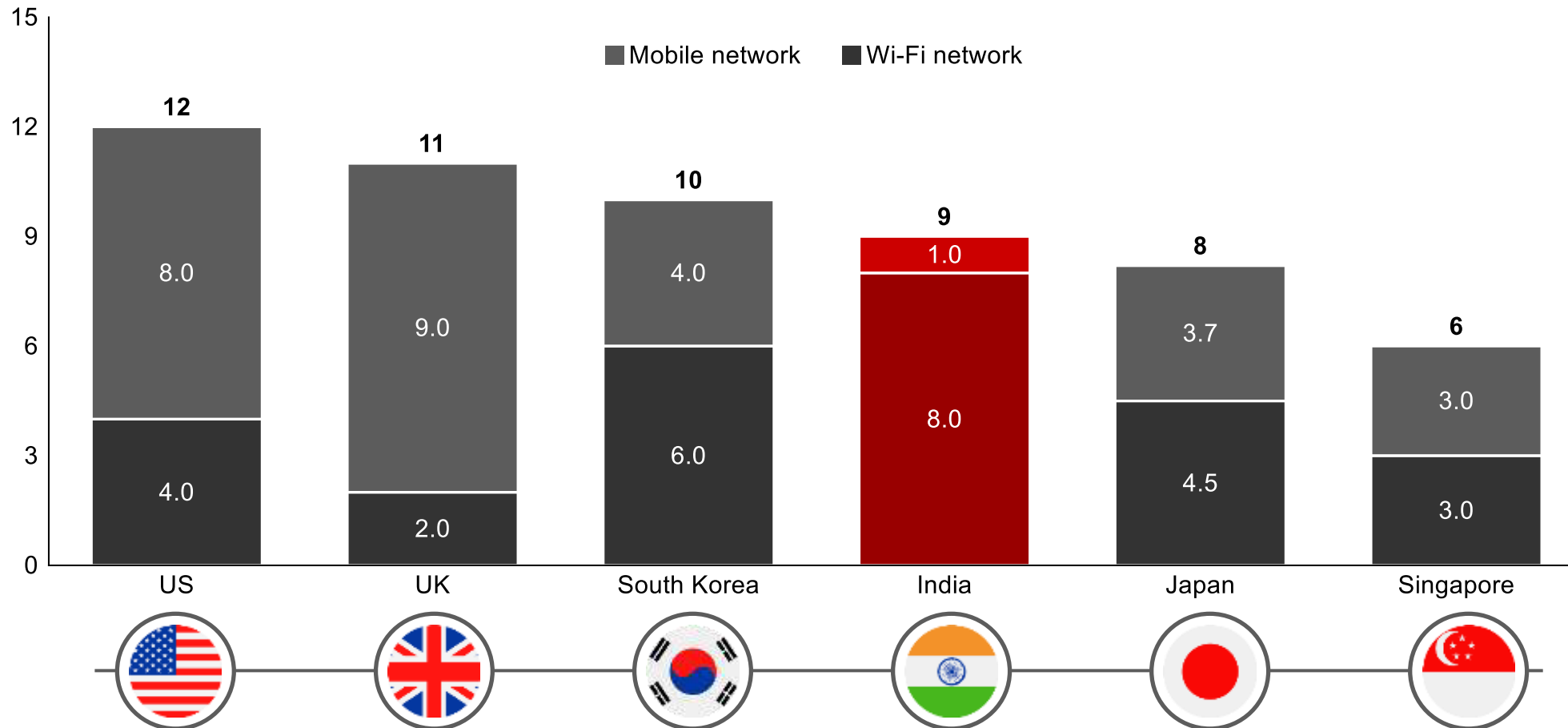
Incremental Internet users (2013–17) (Millions)



Data usage on mobile devices in India reached levels of some of the developed markets in 2017

Data usage on mobile device per subscriber: mobile (3G and 4G) and fixed/Wi-Fi networks

(Gigabytes per month)



- Mobile broadband, particularly 4G, is driving the uptake of high-speed Internet in India
- Penetration of fixed broadband continues to be low

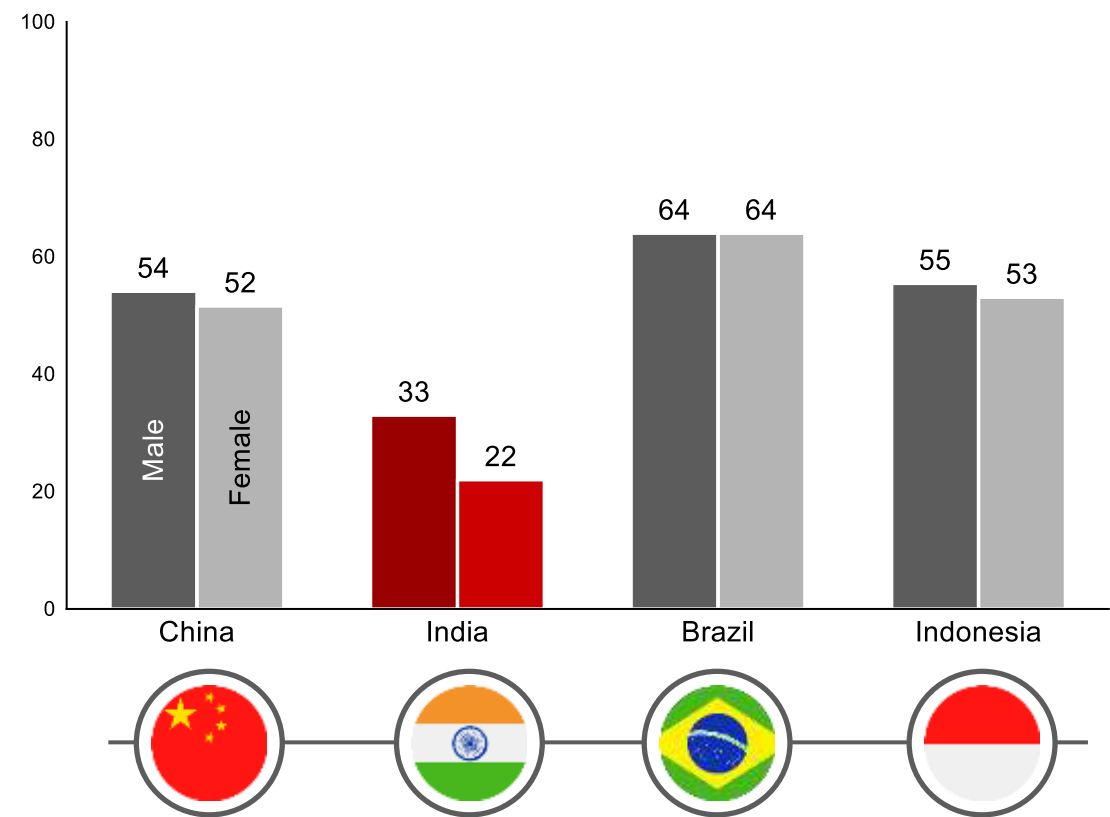
Note: 2017 data (except US, 2016)

Sources: Nokia MBit report; Analysys Mason; FCC report; eMarketer

Some challenges remain: The user base is skewed compared with other countries; rural areas and women have less access

Gender: high disparity between male and female Internet penetration

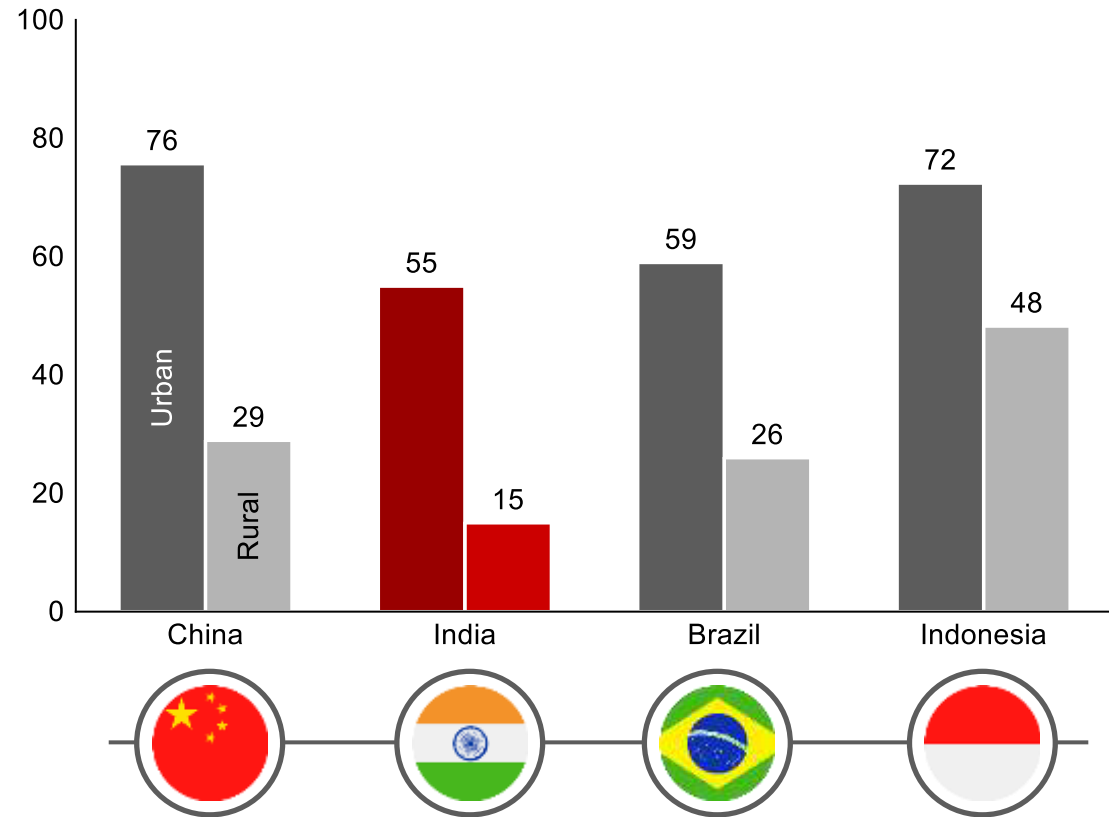
Internet penetration by gender (2017)
(%)



Note: Brazil's rural vs. urban data is for 2016
Sources: China Internet Network Information Center; IMRB I-CUBE; World Bank; APJII Indonesia; Bain analysis

Rural vs. urban: rural penetration much lower than urban

Internet penetration by rural vs. urban (2017)
(%)



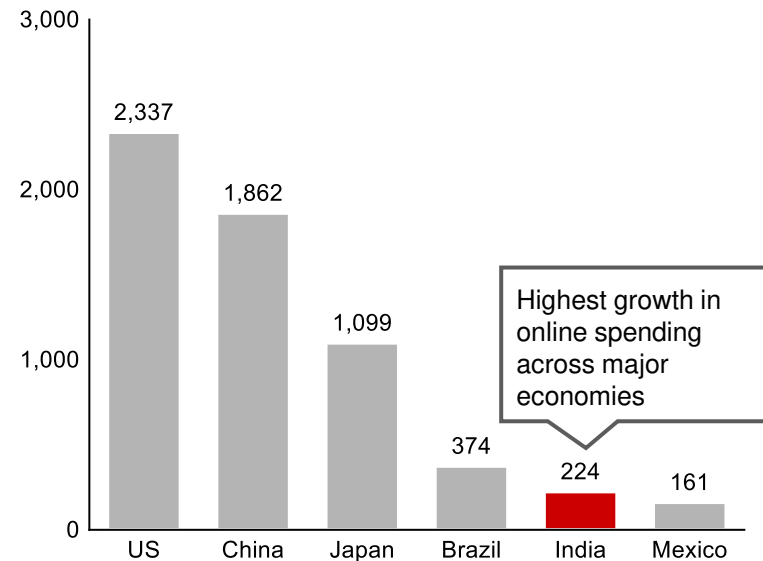
India is in the early stages of online commerce: The average online spending of \$224 per online buyer much lower than other markets

✓ India's online retail market has grown at 70% (albeit over a smaller base) over the past five years

✓ An aggressive e-commerce marketplace driven by discounts, advances in delivery infrastructure and an underlying growth in smartphone penetration/data usage seems to be driving this growth

Online retail spending in India is much lower compared with other countries

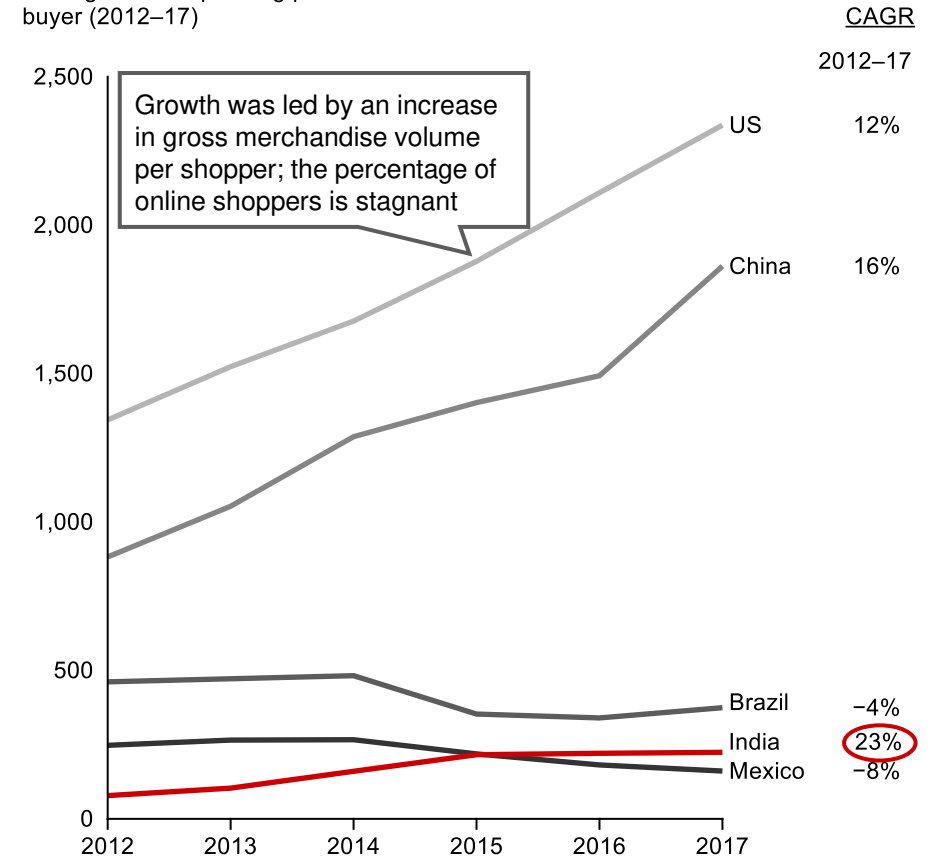
Average online spending per online buyer (2017)
(\$)



Online sales CAGR (2012–17)	14%	35%	5%	7%	70%	14%
Total e-commerce retail sales (2017)	\$459B	\$935B	\$86B	\$17B	\$20B	\$3B
E-commerce retail sales as a percentage of total retail sales	13%	23%	8%	3%	2%	1%

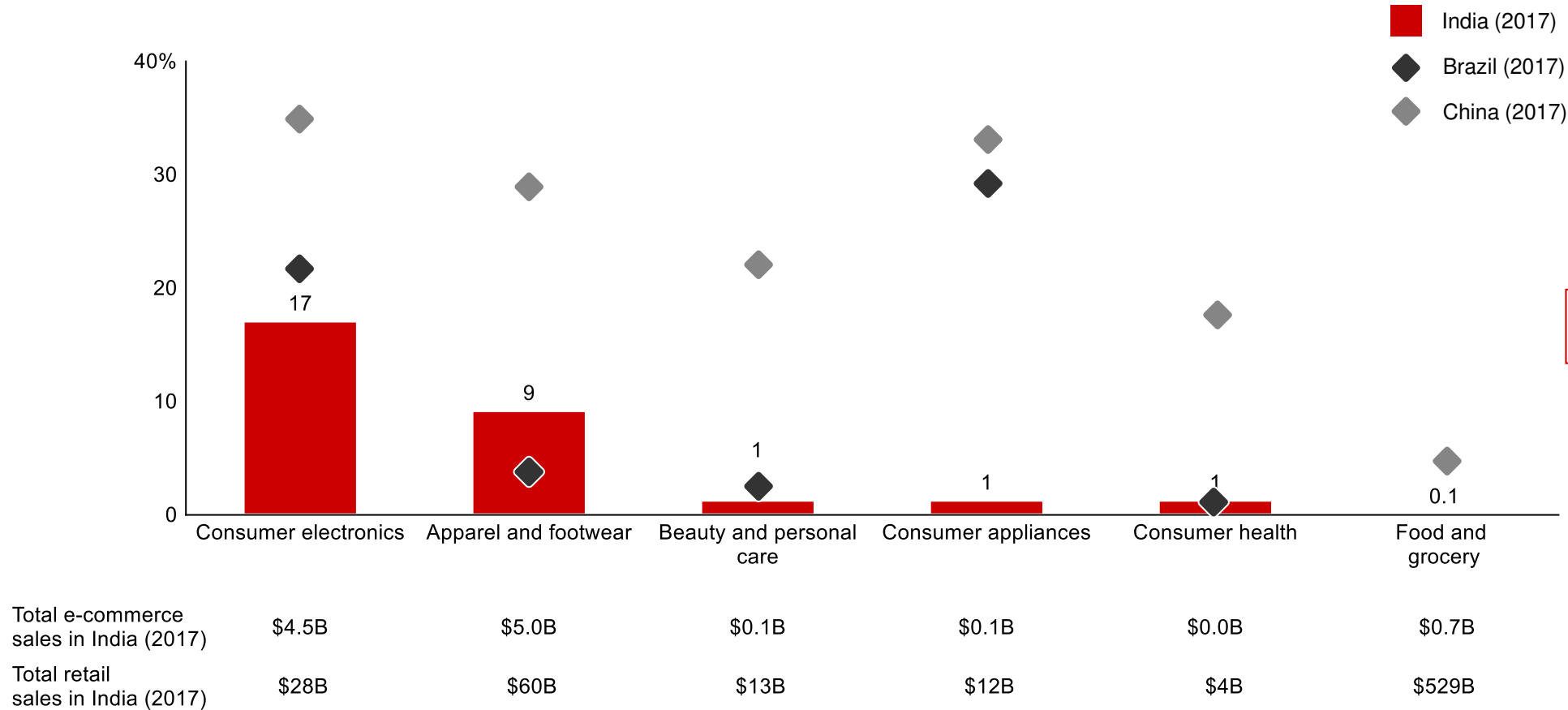
But there has been strong growth over 2012–17

Average online spending per online buyer (2012–17)



The early stage in online commerce is also evident in lower penetration across categories

E-commerce sales as a percentage of total retail sales (2017)



- Digital penetration in India varies significantly across categories, with consumer electronics and apparel the most digitally-penetrated categories
- All categories are underpenetrated and have substantial growth potential

India is at a critical stage in its digital journey, with substantial growth potential in usage and transaction

Given where we are today ...



- **Nearly 30% of overall Internet penetration**, with rapid growth and substantial room for more growth



- **Large opportunity** to enable Internet access across **rural** (15% penetration) and **female** (22% penetration) segments



- **Low average online spending**, but it's growing at nearly a **23% CAGR** (2012–17)

... What is needed to drive the next wave of growth?



- How to enable **more users to come online?**



- What will it take to further **enable online commerce** across existing and new users?



- **Learning and implications for businesses**



A black and white photograph of a hand placing a wooden block on a line of other blocks on a wooden surface. The blocks are arranged in a line, and the hand is positioned over them, suggesting a process of building or decoding. The background is a wooden surface with visible grain.

Decoding barriers

Understanding the landscape of Internet users in India

Key elements

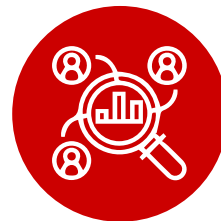
- **Current users vary in their Internet consumption and behaviour**
 - Segment users by usage type
 - Understand barriers to usage and transactions
 - Large potential to unlock by enabling current users to do more transactions online
- **Next set of users will be different from the current base**
 - Identify pockets from where the next wave of users and transactors will emerge
 - What are the barriers to usage?

Our approach



Segmentation and prioritisation

- **Segment population using two lenses**
 - Point of digital adoption: basis usage and/or transaction
 - Affluence basis socio-economic class (NCCS system)
- **Prioritisation** to focus on segments that are poised to use/transact online over next few years



Consumer research

- Pan-India consumer research to understand user journeys, barriers, etc., across demographics
 - ~35 in-depth qualitative interviews
 - Quantitative survey of ~3,400 respondents



Learnings from other countries

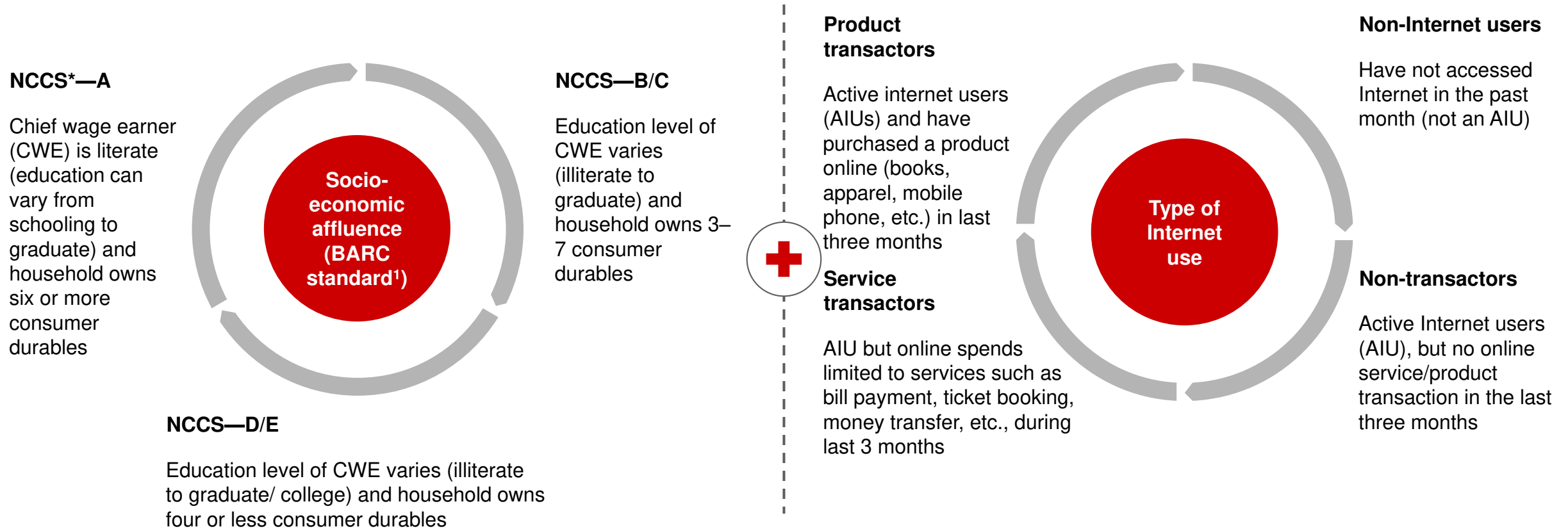
- Understand how other countries that are ahead on the digital curve compared with India overcame these challenges
 - e.g., China, Brazil, Indonesia



Interactions with industry

- Perspectives from industry participants/investors
 - Such as companies in online education, healthcare, agriculture, banking/finance
 - Interactions with investor community

We used industry-defined standards of socio-economic affluence and type of internet usage for segmentation



Combining socio-economic affluence and Internet usage creates a set of cohorts (e.g., C1=non-users in NCCS A, C2=non-users in NCCS B/C) described on the following page

* New Consumer Classification System (NCCS) is used to classify consumers by the BARC
Note: Definitions of NCCS classifications are approximate

Usage type varies significantly across socio-economic classes

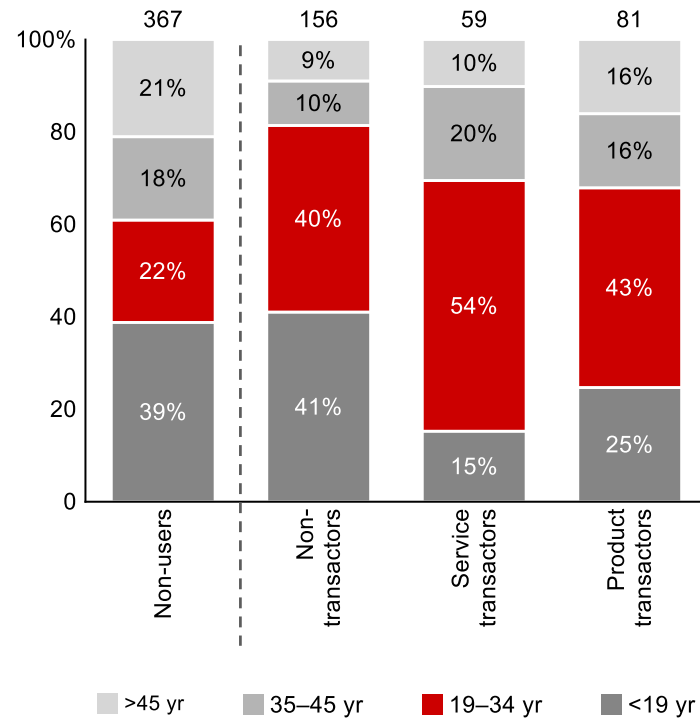
Type of Internet use						Takeaways	
Socio-economic affluence	M population	Non-Internet users	Non-transactors	Service transactors	Product transactors	Total (Internet users, penetration within NCCS)	
	NCCS A	3 ~40 (C1)	~40 (C3)	~30 (C5)	~40 (C7)	2 150 (110M, 73%)	1 390M (1 out of 3) people online, but only 40% of users perform online transactions
	NCCS B/C	~325 (C2)	~120 (C4)	~30 (C6)	~40 (C8)	515 (190M, 38%)	2 Large variation in Internet access and transaction across socio-economic classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~80% (300M of 390M) users from NCCS A/B/C NCCS D/E: Largest population segment but low Internet penetration: 13%, 90M users
	NCCS D/E	~620	~70	~5	~15	710 (90M, 13%)	
	Total (% of Internet penetration)	985 (0%)	1 230 (60%)	65 (15%)	95 (25%)	1375	3 500M+ potential new users and product transactors across NCCS A/B/C. Many more, including NCCS D/E*

* This research is based on a study of NCCS A/B/C segments to ensure adequate sampling, but insights also applicable across NCCS D/E

Source: IMRB iCube Survey 2017 (80,000 respondents across urban and rural India). Kantar IMRB does not assume any responsibility and risk with respect to the use of this report, with regard to information provided therein, including without limitation, all contents and materials, all of which are provided without warranty of any kind, including but not limited to warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of content or information, non-infringement, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will Kantar IMRB or its affiliates, or their respective directors, officers, agents, contractors, suppliers or employees be liable to for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages, losses or causes of action, or lost revenue, lost profits, lost business or sales, or any other type of damage arising from your use of, or the inability to use, or the performance of, our report or the content or material.

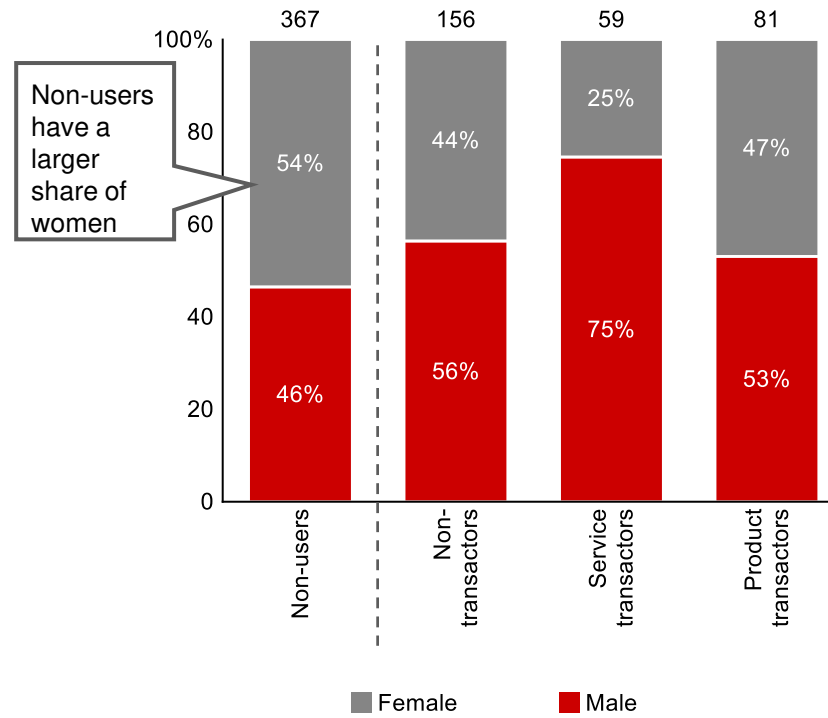
Demographics across user types are significantly different but overall skew towards young, male and urban

C1-C8 population (M)



40%+ of transactors are between 19 and 34 years old. Under-representation from other age groups

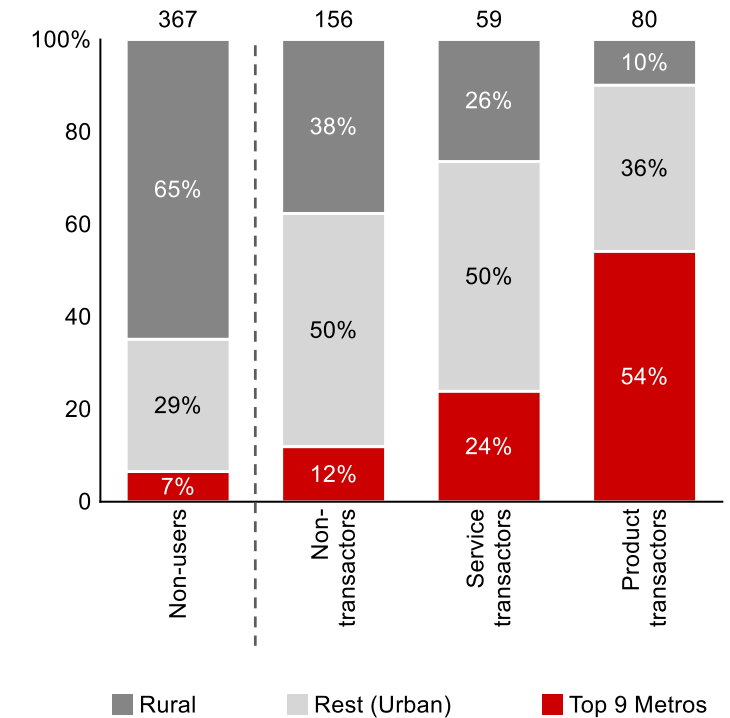
C1-C8 population (M)



Good representation of women in current product transactors, but larger share of non-users is women

/ COHORTS C1 TO C8 ONLY

C1-C8 population (M)

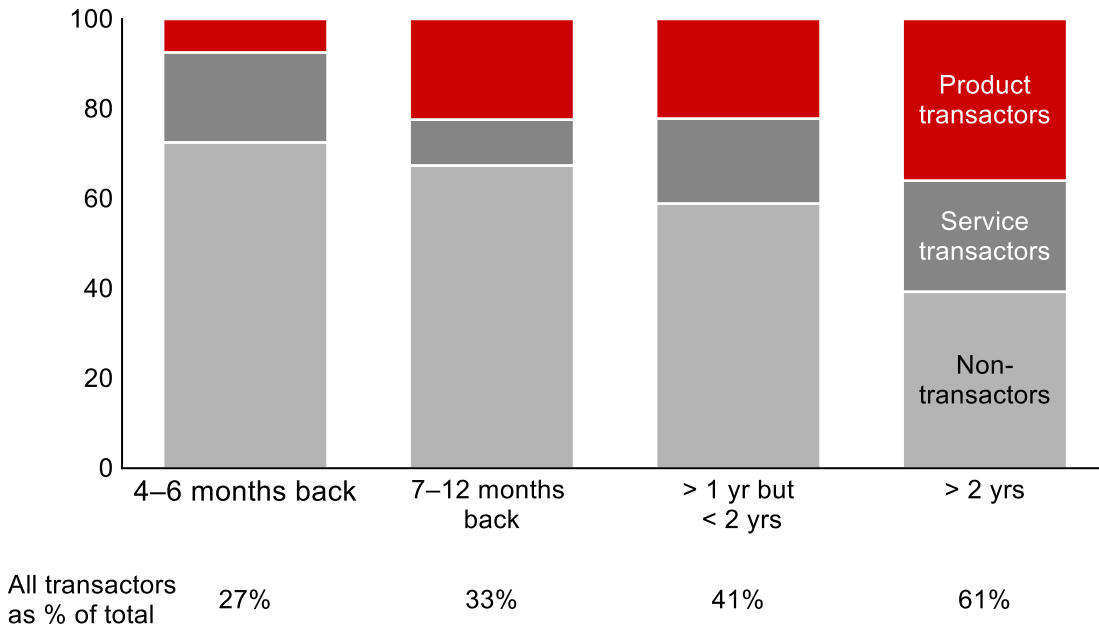


90%+ of product transactors are from urban pockets. 65% of current non-users are rural

Familiarity leads to transaction over time: Once online, users transition to transaction if they continue to engage

Increasing percentage of service/product transactors with increase in time spent on the Internet

Percentage of transactors vs time since started using the internet (%)

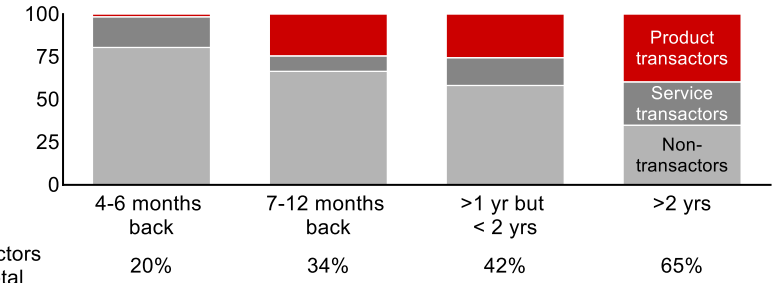


Overall, >2X more transactors among people who have been online more than 2 years vs. recent users (4-6 months)

Journey strongly reflected in urban users (especially metros), but rural users don't transition as well

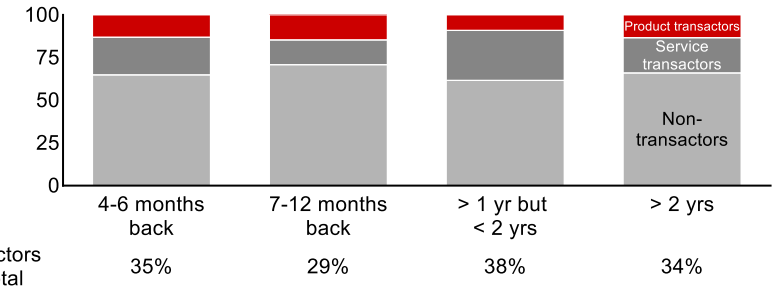
Urban

Percentage of transactors vs Time since started using internet (Urban) (%)



Rural

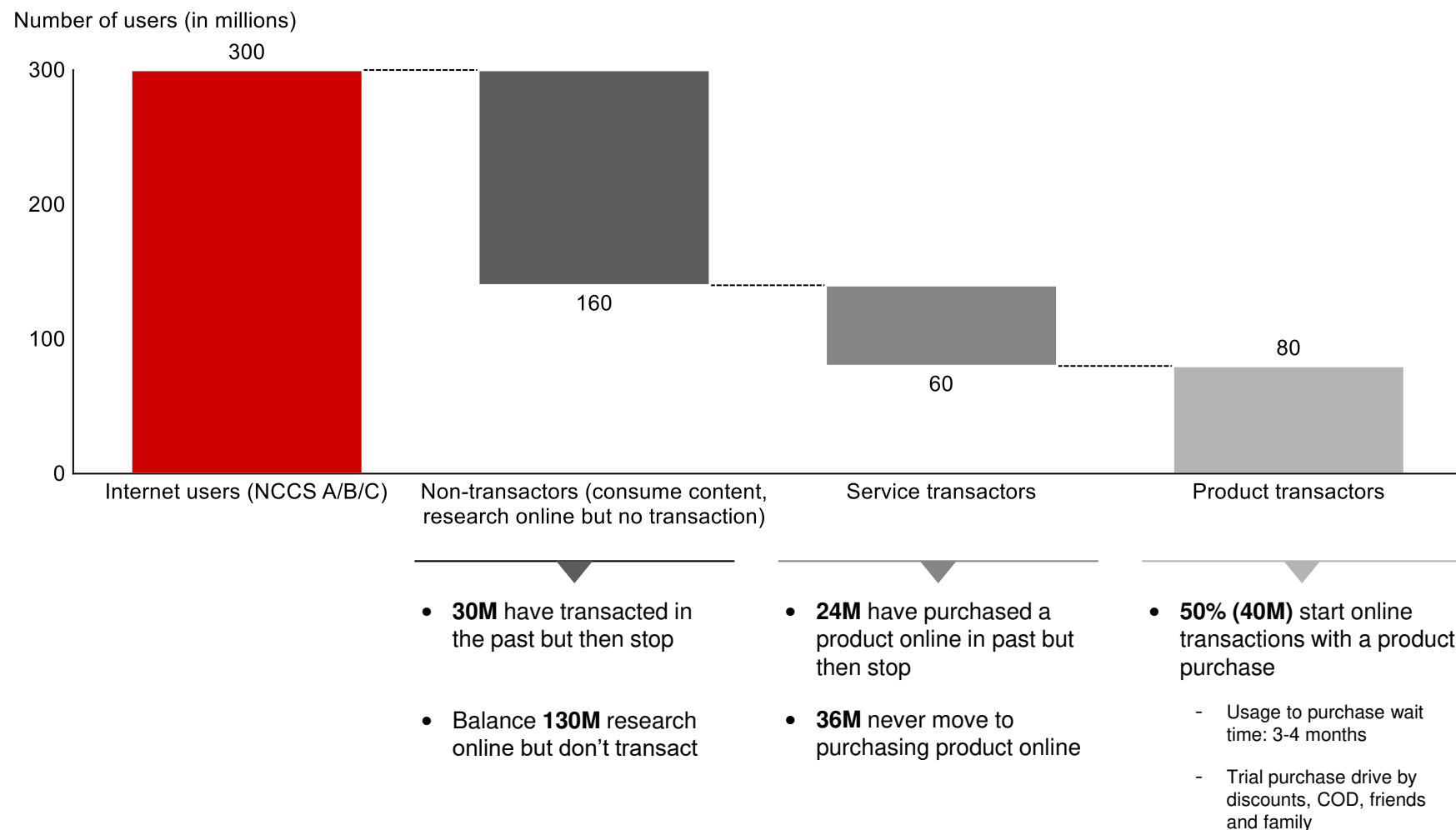
Percentage of transactors vs Time since started using internet (Rural) (%)



No significant increase in transactors across rural users over time; could be indicative of trial purchase

Plugging the gaps can lead to an increase in the transactor base

/ ACROSS NCCS A/B/C



Potential to double the current product transactor base by:

① Plugging the leakage: 54M across NCCS A/B/C have stopped online transactions after first purchase

② Building the base:

- Enable 36M service transactors to make an online product purchase by addressing their concerns
- 160M content consumers who research online but transact offline

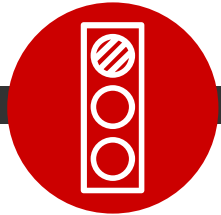
Non-users: 370 million across NCCS A/B/C and 620 million across NCCS D/E



Who are they?

- Majority from rural areas (~65%). For non-users from urban centers, 50% are from urban small towns
- Women form the majority of the non-users (64% of non-users across NCCS A are women and 53% of non-users across NCCS B/C are women)
- Typically skilled/unskilled labourers, farmers, housewives, traders, small shop owners, and so on

Non-users



What stops them from being online? Learnings from NCCS A/B/C cohorts

- Awareness/knowledge—41% (150M) of non-users reported not being aware of the Internet and how to use it
- Lack of means to access the Internet—34% (120M) of non-users reported not having means (PC/mobiles) to access Internet or lack of affordability
- Not allowed to access—8% (30M) of non-users (primarily women) mentioned “not allowed to access internet” as reason for not being online; more pronounced in rural areas
- No perceived need/relevant content—7% (25M) of non-users don’t think the internet serves any need or cannot find relevant/engaging content
- We expect that similar challenges will apply to the NCCS D/E non-users as well (620M)



Future outlook

- High inclination (~60%) among respondents to adopt Internet in the near future
 - Particularly high inclination amongst young urban males

Lack of awareness, means and cultural or social factors (especially for women) are key barriers. Affordability continues to be a concern

✓ Survey findings indicate that **Internet awareness continues to be low**

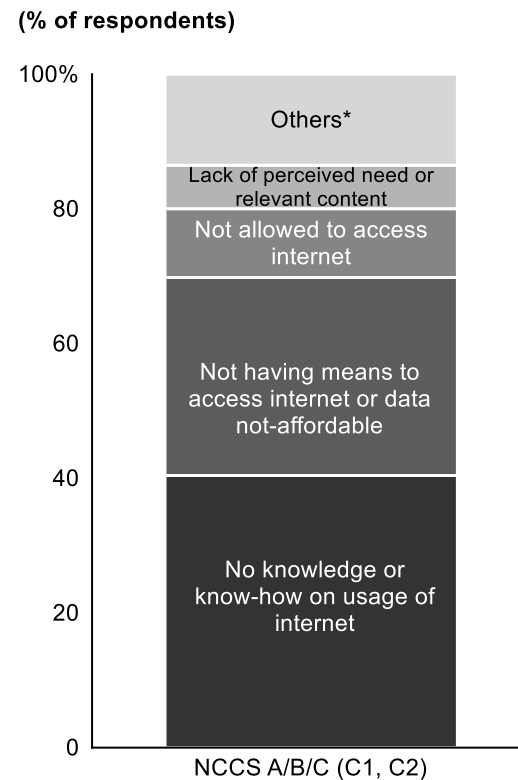
✓ A large segment of the population reported not having the **means to access the Internet**

✓ **Cultural/social considerations** hinder usage within specific segments (women, younger population)

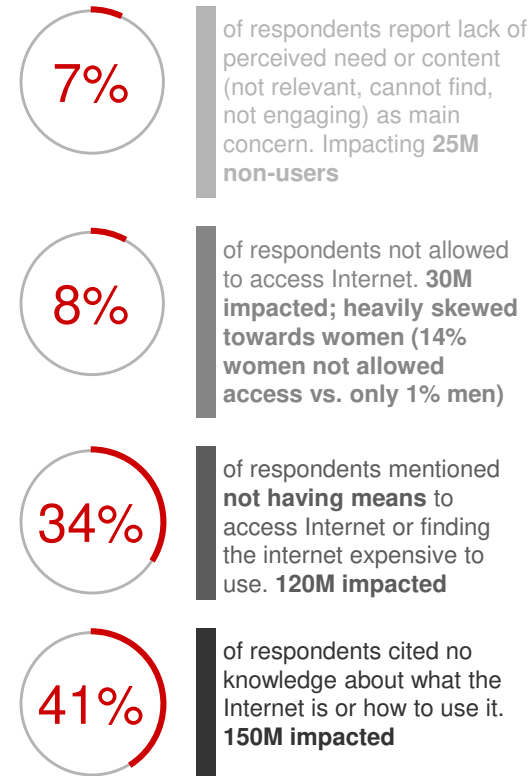
✓ **Affordability** is still a sizeable barrier

✓ Lack of perceived need and content also a major barrier, along with lack of know-how

Top reason among non-users for not using Internet



Across NCCS A/B/C non-users



Need to address:

- Knowledge/awareness
- Social factors
- Affordability and lack of access
- Lack of perceived need
- Know-how about usage

...to enable faster transition of non-users to users

Potential to enable Internet access for 370M non-users across NCCS A/B/C alone

* Other reasons for not accessing Internet include non-availability of Internet access points, lack of Internet connection at home, security and trust issues, perception that Internet wastes people's time, language issues, non-relevant content
Source: Consumer survey, February 2018 (n=3,442)

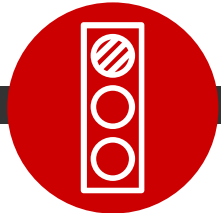


Non-transactors: 160 million across NCCS A/B/C and 70 million across NCCS D/E



Who are they?

- Majority of non-transactors are male (56%), from urban areas (60%) and are under 34 years old (80%)
- Primarily access Internet to stay in touch with friends and relatives (~20%) and for convenience in looking for information and for communication (~15%)
- Typically self-employed professionals, small-scale businessmen, skilled labourers, shop owners or students



What stops them from being online? Learnings from NCCS A/B/C cohorts

- **Lack of trust** in getting the right products online: 18% of respondents (27M across NCCS A/B/C) mentioned as top concern
 - Amplified within urban aged population
- **No touch and feel** for the product/service when brought online: top concern for 18% of respondents (27M impacted across NCCS A/B/C)
- **Offline channels more convenient**—main point highlighted by 12% of respondents (~15M across NCCS A/B/C)
- **Grievance redressal** (how to return a product, money refund, etc.) also a major concern with 10% of respondents (15M population across NCCS A/B/C) mentioning it as major concern for transacting online



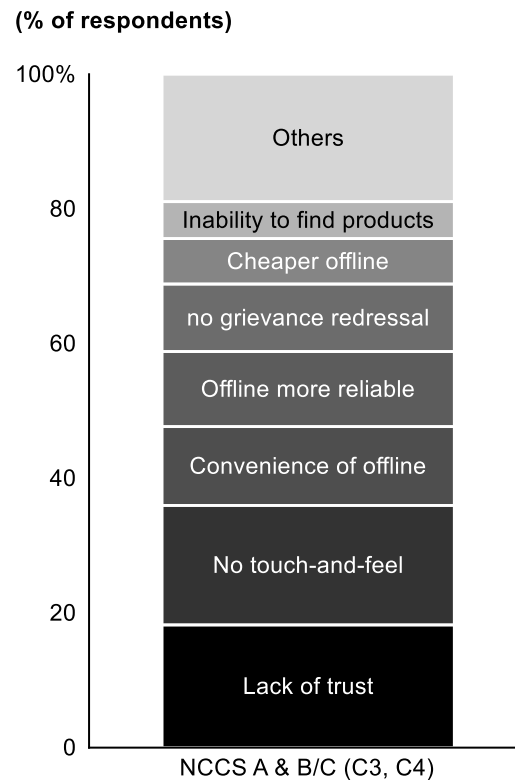
What is the user journey so far?

- ~20% respondents (30M) have transacted online in past, but stopped due to poor product quality and perception of better options available offline

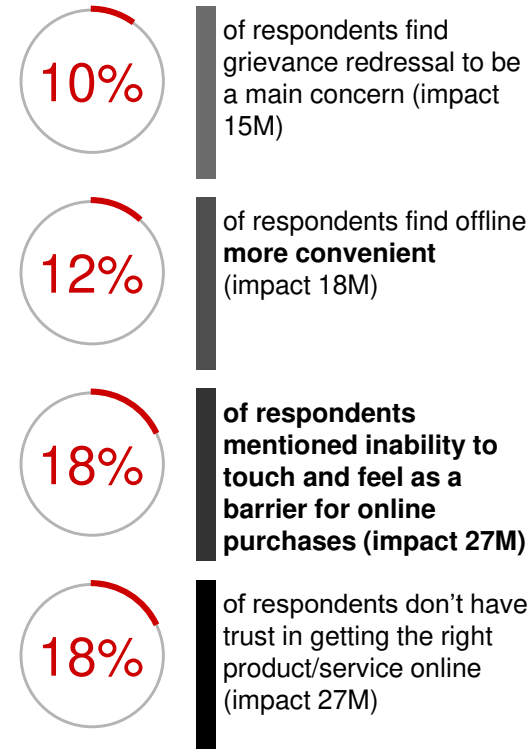
Lack of trust and the perception of better reliability and convenience from offline channels are the primary barriers to online transactions

- ✓ Survey findings indicate there is a substantial portion of the population who do not trust the Internet for purchasing products/taking advantage of services as they feel that they will not get the right product or service.
- ✓ Lack of touch and feel for online purchases also dissuades a significant portion of the population from transacting online.
- ✓ Apart from the relative convenience and reliability of offline, there is lack of understanding on how to address grievances for an online purchase if something were to go wrong (more so within the NCCS A classes).

Top reason for non-transactors to not purchase products/services online



Aggregate across NCCS A/B/C non-transactors

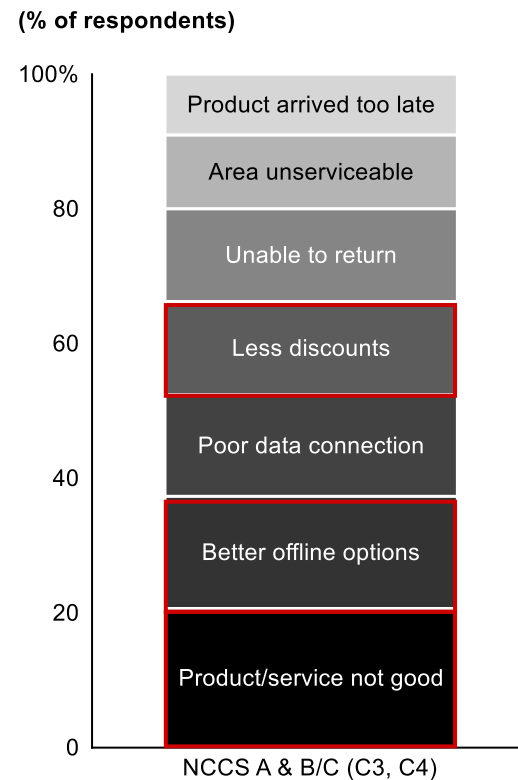


Potential to get more of the ~160M non-transactors to online commerce by addressing these concern

Roughly 20% of respondents have transacted in the past but stop after their first purchase

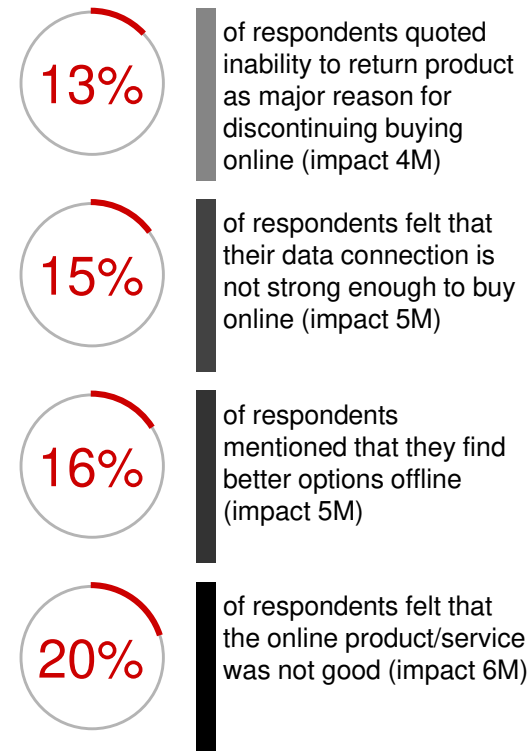
- ✓ There is a significant fall-out of almost 20% non-transactors following an initial trial purchase across the NCCS A/B/C cohort of non-transactors.
- ✓ This is primarily driven by an ordered product not meeting the quality benchmark. Better offline options are also a major challenge in continuing online transactions.
- ✓ Other key reasons include a perception that online currently offers fewer discounts and lack of redressal (inability to return products)
- ✓ It is important to address these concerns to push a significant portion of non-transactors into the Internet transactor space.

Top reason for non-transactors to stop purchasing products/services online



 Perception concerns

Aggregate across NCCS A/B/C non-transactors



Companies need to address consumer concerns on grievance redressal (product returns, delayed delivery) and drive change in perception (e.g., offline has better options, product quality etc.) to plug leakage of 30M one-time product purchasers

Service transactors: 60 million across NCCS A/B/C, another 5 million across NCCS D/E

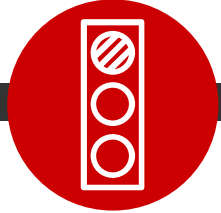


Service transactors



Who are they?

- Predominantly men (75%); women underrepresented in service transactions
- From mainly urban areas (75% of respondents) and a younger demographic (60% under the age of 34)
- They access the Internet to stay in touch with friends and family and as a convenient way to find information; introduced by a friend/family member
- Transact on the Internet because of convenience—cheaper than offline and availability of options



What prevents people from shopping for products online? Learnings from NCCS A/B/C

- Lack of adequate grievance redressal mechanism: 21% (8M people across NCCS A/B/C)
- Trust—inability to touch and feel the product before purchase: 20% (7M affected across NCCS A/B/C)
- Higher perceived reliability of offline products: 12% (4M impacted across NCCS A/B/C)

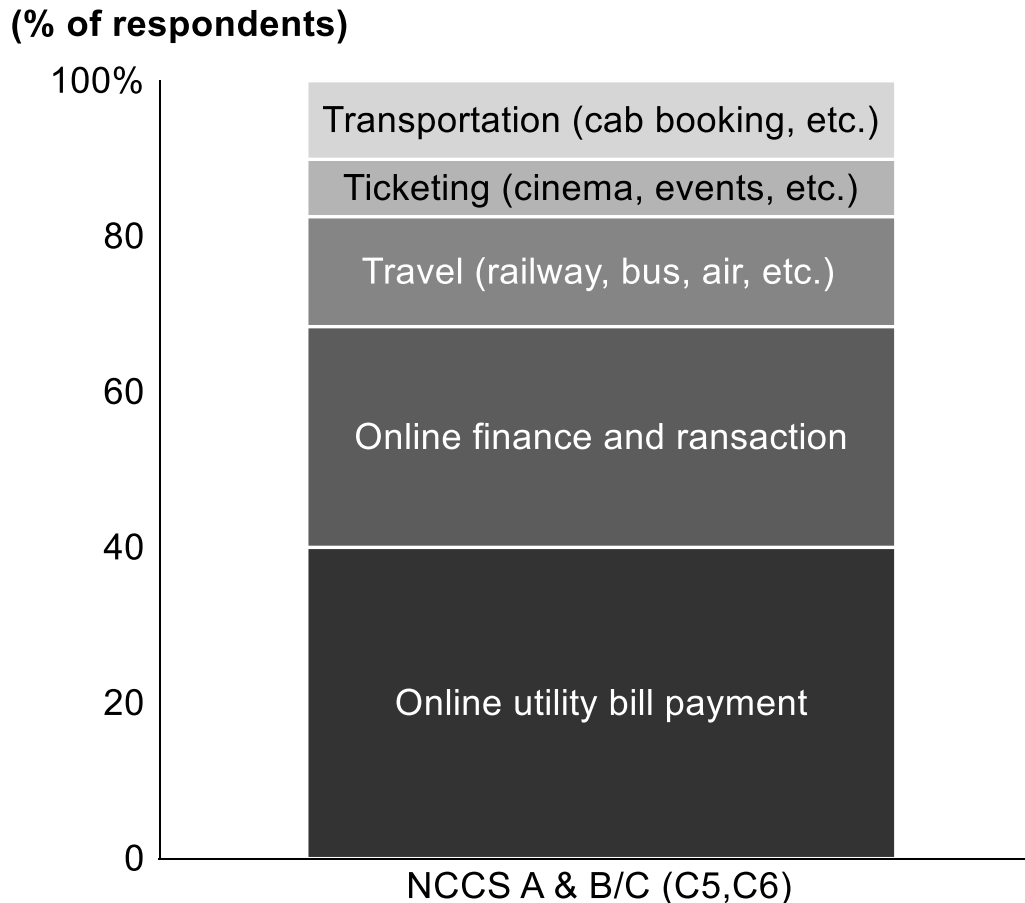


What is the user journey so far?

- Substantial number of drop-offs: 40% (24M) had previously purchased a product online but stopped due to a better selection available offline, a bad experience with online purchase or a reduction in online discounts

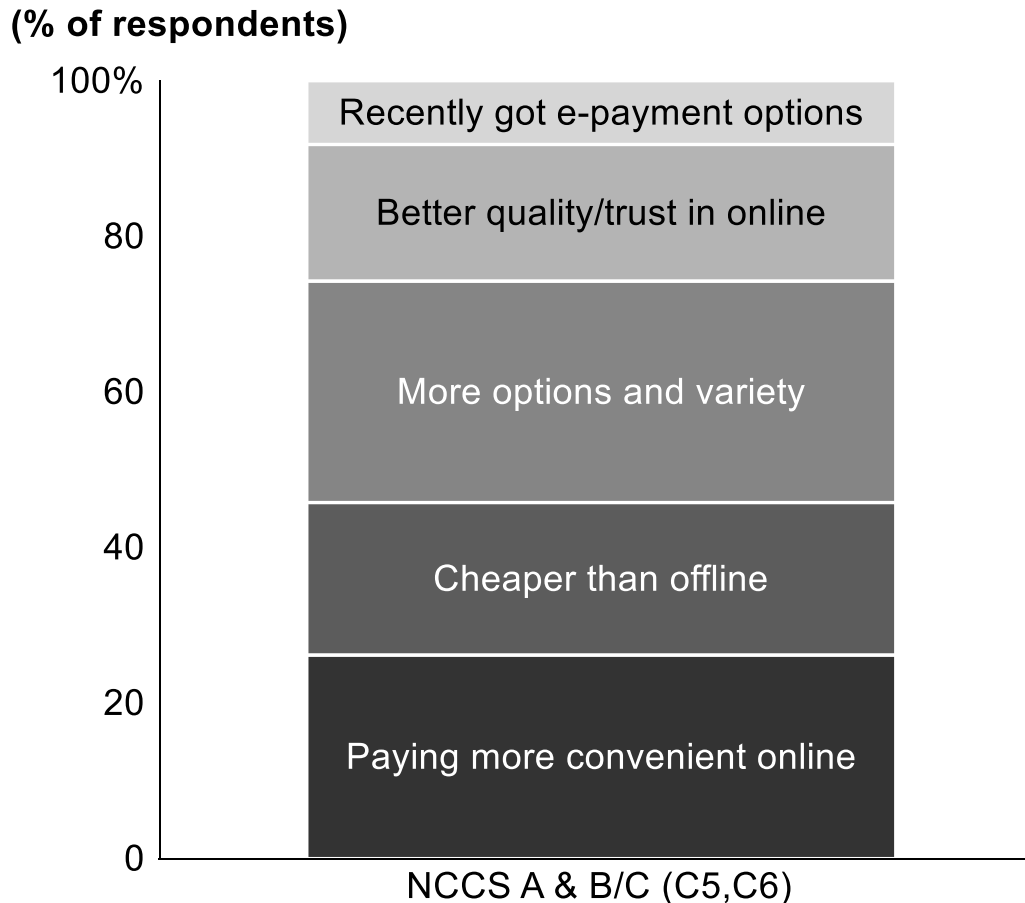
Utility and banking are the first transaction for most, driven by convenience of payments and availability of options

First online transaction



- Roughly two-thirds (~40M) of all service transactors' first online transaction is a utility bill payment or a banking transaction
- Online travel booking is the next big entry point

Most important reason to transact on the internet

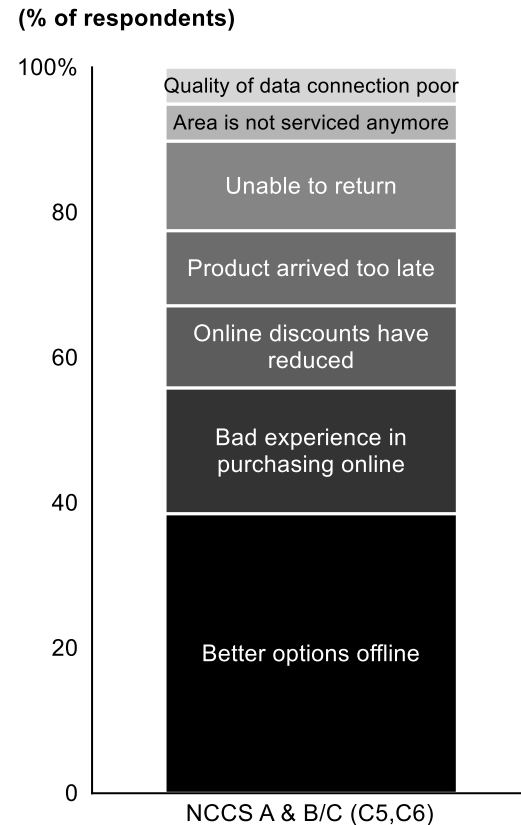


- A sizeable chunk of respondents (28%, 17M) find more options online (e.g., booking movies, travel, food delivery)
- ~26% (16M) transact on the Internet because it's more convenient to pay online than going through offline means
- There is also a perception (20%, 7M) that paying online is cheaper than offline for same service (cashbacks, rebates)

40% of current service transactors have purchased products online, but then stopped for multiple reasons

- ✓ Consumers feel that offline options are wider and hence do not prefer to purchase products online. The selection of products must be improved/made easier to access to be more appealing to buyers.
- ✓ A bad experience in the purchase process or delayed delivery further erodes the trust in buying products online.
- ✓ Consumers are price sensitive, and reduction in discounts leads them back to their offline channels, indicating that substitutability between online and offline channels remains high.

Top reason for stopping Online product purchase



Aggregate across NCCS A/B/C service transactors



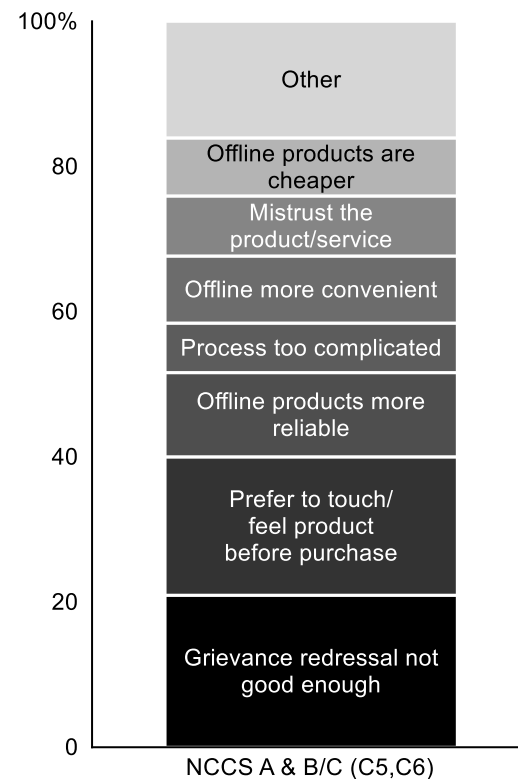
- 24M people drop off after first product purchase
- Significant opportunity to further online commerce by plugging the leakage
- Need to improve selection, online shopping experience and perception of fewer discounts

The remaining 60% never make an online product purchase—reliability, grievance redressal and touch and feel are their main concerns

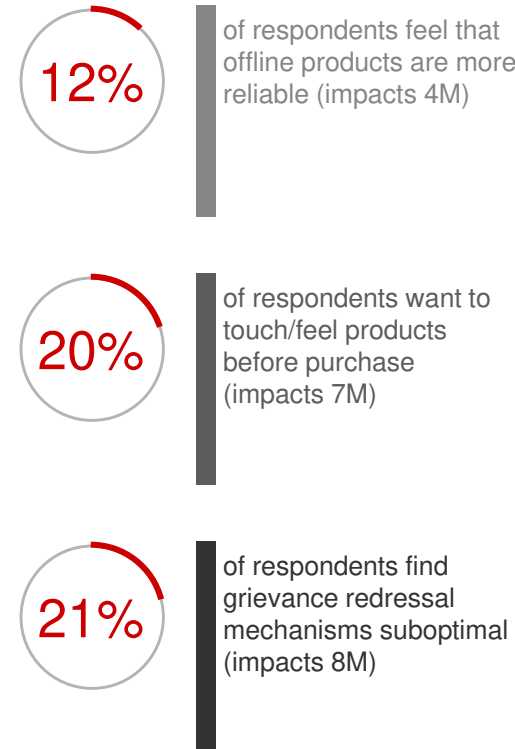
- ✓ E-commerce players must improve their grievance redressal mechanisms (or consumer perception of the same) to spur online transactions. Improved returns policies, customer support, etc., and enhanced user perception of the same are potential levers.
- ✓ Efforts to increase trust and comfort levels of the less educated with online transactions may help them to purchase more.
- ✓ To alleviate concerns of touch and feel, it would likely help if return policies were made more consumer friendly and marketed better.

Primary reason for not shopping online

(% of respondents)



Aggregate across NCCS A/B/C service transactors



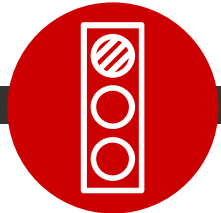
- 36M people transact on services but have not purchased a product online
- Significant opportunity to further online commerce by migrating this segment to product transaction
- Need to solve grievance redressal, trust concerns and perception of reliability of online channels

Product transactors: 80 million across NCCS A/B/C



Who are they?

- Mainly from urban areas (~90%) and a younger demographic (~70% under the age of 34)
- Women equally represented in current set of product transactors: 47% are women
- 50% access the Internet to stay in touch with friends and family and as a convenient way to find information; introduced by a friend/family member



What prevents people from increasing spend/ frequency of shopping for products online?

Learnings from NCCS A/B/C

- Inadequate grievance redressal mechanism: impacts 16% (13M) of current product transactors
- Lack of trust/reliability in the online product/service (impacts 16%, 13M)
- Preference for touch and feel (impacts 15%, 12M)
- Perceive offline channel as more convenient (impacts 9%, 7M)



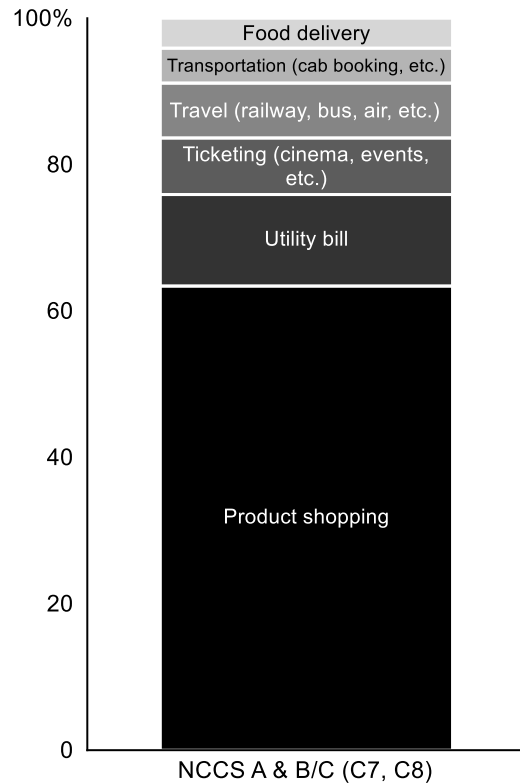
What is the user journey so far?

- For 50% of product transactors, the first online purchase was a product. A large share of older people made their first online transaction in the form of a utility bill payment

For more than 50% product transactors, the first online transaction was a product purchase such as apparel or footwear, with a variety of reasons given

What was the first online transaction

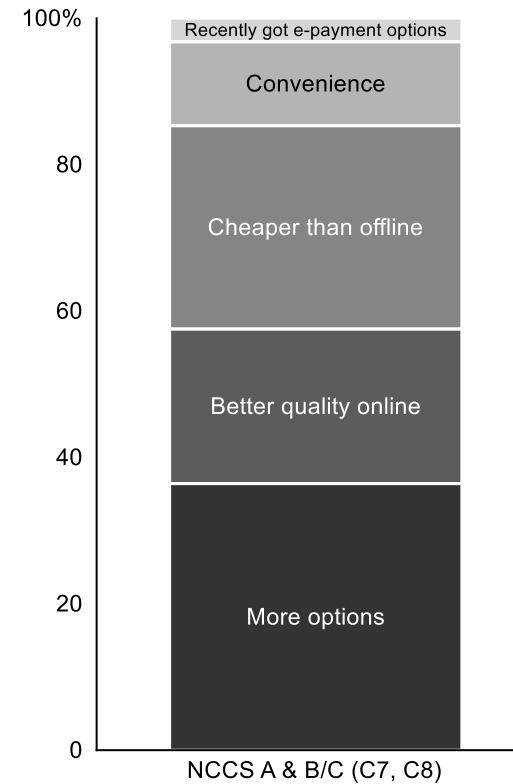
(% of respondents)



- More than half the respondents stated that a product purchase was their first online transaction, indicating that a large number of users are transitioning directly from content to product transaction
- The rest start with a range of different service transactions (utility bill payments, financial transactions)

Most important reason to transact on Internet

(% of respondents)

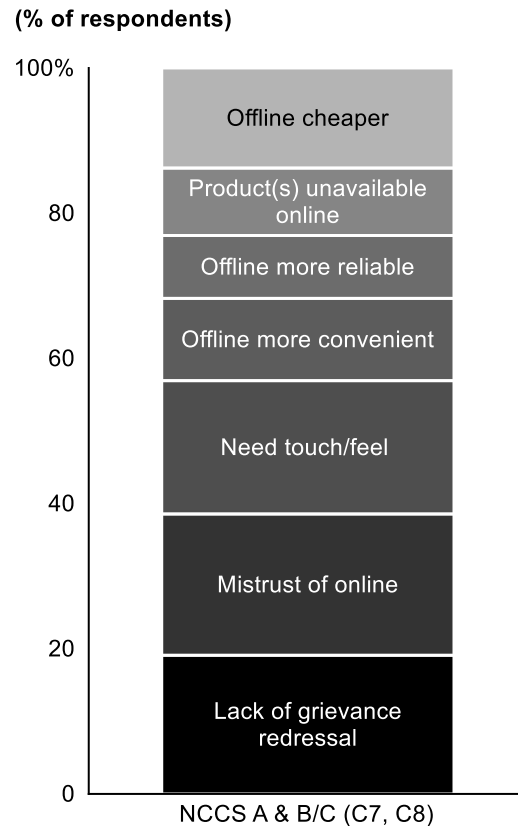


- Top 3 reasons stated by ~80% of respondents: “more options”, “better quality online” and “cheaper prices” to buy goods online.
- For more than two-thirds of respondents, finding more options is a key driver to transacting online.
- This is in contrast to non-transactors who find better options offline, indicating that purchase triggers are related to not only price but also perception about availability and discoverability of products.

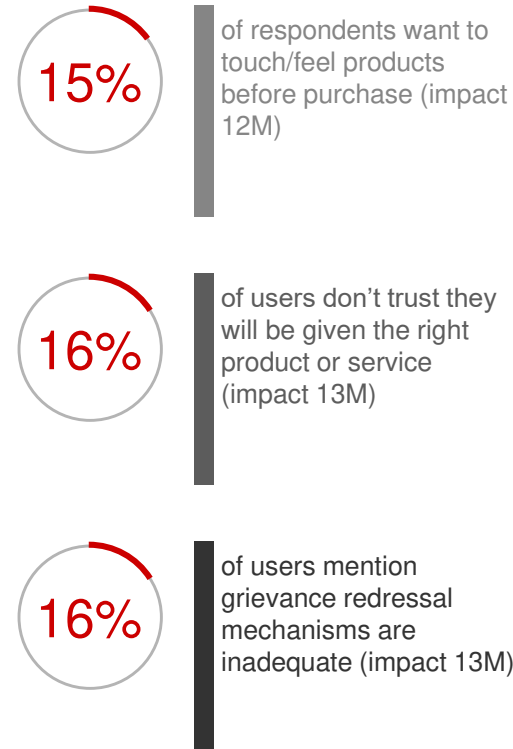
Better grievance redressal mechanisms, enhanced trust would spur more online product purchases

- ✓ Offline purchases are more convenient for NCCS A respondents, so efforts for enhanced delivery and logistics and improved selection of products would be required to get them to purchase more.
- ✓ Addressing mistrust of online products through targeted ads or in-app offers would help more customers transact frequently.
- ✓ Customer support, returns policies and improving awareness of the same would help address grievance redressal issues.

Biggest reason for not purchasing more products online



Aggregate across NCCS A/B/C product transactors



- Scope to increase frequency of purchase by addressing concerns around grievance redressal, trust and need for touch and feel

Primary barriers across the user journey

/ NUMBERS FROM RESEARCH ACROSS NCCS A/B/C



Enable new users



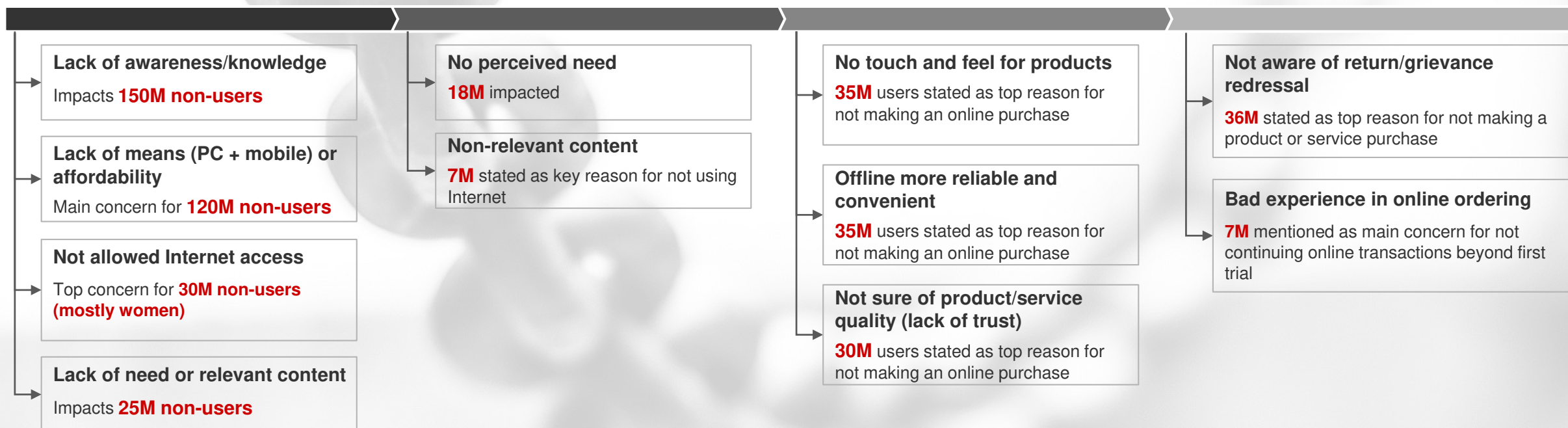
User engagement



Purchase consideration



Transaction and retention



Above barriers would also apply, in similar proportion, across the 710M NCC D/E population base



User interventions

Four themes to unlock the \$50B+ of online commerce from the next set of users and transactors



Enable new users

- Create access, awareness and literacy through government and public-private partnership
 - Enable 370M new users across NCCS A/B/C
 - Many million more across NCCS D/E



User engagement

- Build locally-relevant solutions across content and use cases
 - Critical to drive Internet penetration and usage in rural India
 - 130M new engaged, connected users by doubling rural Internet penetration from current 15%
- Create an ecosystem for the self-employed (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises [MSMEs]) to diversify and augment income via digital channels
 - Potential to influence 40% of India's workforce employed with 46M MSMEs through informed and connected ecosystems



Purchase consideration

- Strengthen trust across the user touchpoints to drive transactions by:
 - Having an omnichannel presence
 - Building consumer confidence by reinforcing product quality
 - Assuaging concerns about returns by redefining/simplifying return policies and creating messaging around them
 - Reengaging 54M users who have stopped online product purchase after the first purchase
 - Helping transition 160M Internet users who are not performing any transactions right now



Transaction and retention

- US\$30B–\$40B potential unlock of online commerce across new users¹
- US\$6B–\$12B potential uplift in online commerce by plugging the leakage and reengaging 54M users who have stopped online commerce after first trial²
- US\$14B–\$18B potential unlock in online commerce by helping transition 160M non-transactors to online purchase³
- Above impact estimated across NCCS A/B/C cohorts. Impact would be manifold considering NCCS D/E population base of 710M, of which 620M are currently non-users

1. \$30B–\$40B impact on online commerce assuming 40–50% of 370M new users do online transaction and spend US\$224 on an annual basis, which is the average across current online buyers

2. Impact of \$6B–\$12B assuming 50–100% of 54M past product transactors restart transacting and spend US\$224 on an annual basis, which is the average across current online buyers

3. \$14B–\$18B impact on online commerce assuming 40–50% of current non-transactors start online product purchase and spend US\$224 on an annual basis, which is the average across current online buyers

Sources: *The Economic Times*; Census (2011); IMRB iCube (Internet users for India)

Government and public–private partnership to improve Internet awareness and enable new users

ENABLE NEW USERS



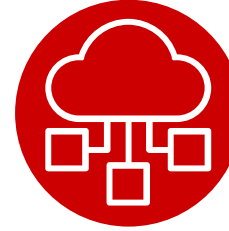
Promote digital literacy

- Specific focus on women and children to show benefits, break taboos
- Increase the coverage and depth of basic Internet education in schools and vocational education



Assist and facilitate usage

- Handhold specific segments, especially rural aged and women, to teach how to access and use Internet
- Continue to push government services/ content availability online



Invest in Internet-access infrastructure

- Encourage partnerships to widen and improve Internet-access infrastructure
 - Especially in rural (and often economically unviable) regions
- Encourage private-sector investments
 - E.g., through assured revenue model to private players
 - Tax incentives



Improve affordability

- Low-cost solutions to drive access—e.g., data affordability, low-cost devices

Brazil and China have successful initiatives to improve access and literacy

ENABLE NEW USERS



Programa Nacional de Banda

Objective

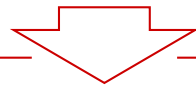
- To triple fixed-line and broadband access by 2014 with a focus on rural areas
- National broadband plan, launched by Brazil government in 2010

Approach

- Public-private partnerships created by auctioning off licenses for 4G, broadband
- Tax incentives to both firms and consumers
- State-owned telecom operator, Telebras, built infrastructure

Impact

- 218M Internet accesses by 2016 compared with 30M in 2010
- Investments of R \$15B+ in broadband networks



Commitment to invest behind infrastructure supported by tax incentives

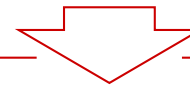


Recode Brazil

- Focus on digital empowerment by qualifying the young to become more autonomous, aware and connected through the use of technology

- Schools are equipped with 5 computers to train 10 students per session on basic and advanced computer usage skills
- Beyond Recode's initial investment, the EIC schools operate as self-sustaining units

- 840+ EIC schools in Brazil and 15 other countries have impacted >1.64 million lives



Partnerships with government and private organisations to increase digital adoption by youngsters

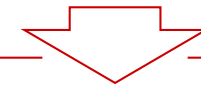


Broadband China

- Government plan to drive broadband advancement by increasing speed and Internet penetration and building next-generation infrastructure

- Planned investment of ~\$300B
- Various elements, including coordinated regional broadband development, upgrading network, improve network applications, etc.





- Increase in coverage by 1.5x, penetration by 1.5x and speed by 3x within 2 years



Large-scale govt. programme to drive access and Internet speed

India has major initiatives by government and private firms to build infrastructure and improve access and affordability

ENABLE NEW USERS

	BharatNet	Jio	i2ei	Internet Saathi
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver high-speed broadband services in 250K+ villages benefitting 200M rural Indians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an ecosystem where a user can access all services online from a family of apps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I2e1's (Information To Every One) aim to create the largest connected platform in the world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve Internet penetration amongst women in rural India
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phased approach taken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1: 100K villages (laying of 250K km of fibre-optic cable), started in 2014 Phase 2: 150K villages (laying of 1M km of fibre-optic cable), started in 2017 with aim to complete by Dec. 2018 Phase 3 (2019–23): Plan to connect districts with fibre using state-of-the art network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially offered free Internet access to subscribers for seven months Slowly moved to a paid model, created revolution in Indian Internet data prices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artificial intelligence–based platform providing Internet access to consumers and helping businesses through Wi-Fi analytics to target consumers “Customers can use free Wi-Fi and the retailers can get a profile of people who walk in—and send targeted offers”— Founder, I2E1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google partnered with Tata Trusts to launch a digital literacy program Women in rural India can complete the “Saathi” training, learning how to access and use the Internet to impart training to their nearby communities
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 completed by connecting 100K+ Gram Panchayats in Dec. 2017 Global record of laying of 800 km. of optical fibre per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large customer base of 160M+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wi-Fi hotspots to 1M+ users across India Services for 10K+ customers in 55 cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 166K villages touched 45K+ Internet Saathis trained Influenced 16M+ women across India
	 <p>Massive government- driven scheme to boost Internet access in rural areas</p>	 <p>Substantial impact on reducing data prices</p>	 <p>Innovative model to provide free Wi-Fi access</p>	 <p>Scale programme focusing on digital literacy amongst women in rural India</p>

Creating solutions based on local needs and behaviour is critical to improving user engagement

USER ENGAGEMENT



Build locally-relevant content

- Contextualised to local languages and communities to drive adoption
 - E.g., apps related to agricultural needs specific to Indian agri context, apps that provide info/guidance on women's health



Create applications relevant for 'Bharat'—customised to local needs, nuances

- Relevant for local needs and nuances, e.g., agricultural info, government schemes, skilling, content for women
- Local-centric approach to user interface/design is the basis of target segment
 - Next set of users will need simplified user interfaces, with intuitive structures
- Customise user support to local needs, e.g., on call in multiple languages, more in-built guides
 - Provide more accessible, relevant support to solve user concerns

130M potential new engaged, connected users by doubling rural Internet penetration from current 15%

Dailyhunt and Pratilipi players that provide locally-relevant content to a broader user base

USER ENGAGEMENT: LOCAL SOLUTIONS

	dailyhunt	Pratilipi
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">News and local language content applicationTargets mobile audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Platform to discover, read and share stories, poems and books in local languages
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Machine learning and deep learning technologies used for smart curation of content defined by language, location, interests and other demographic variablesTracks user preferences to deliver real-time, personalised content and notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On-boarded both professional and hobbyist writersOperational in eight local languages; large Indian population can only read/write/speak in Indian languages, and only a small share of online content is in Indian languagesMonetisation plans in future:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Premium content for which users will payIP rights for valuable content pieces
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">155M app installs with 50M+ usersOffers 100K news articles in 14 languages licensed from 800+ publication partners every dayLaunched Newzly, a news-in-brief app for Android users<ul style="list-style-type: none">“India has a large local language population with diverse needs and the launch of Newzly is part of our expansion of the product portfolio to serve those needs”— Founder & CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Largest Indian language self-publishing platform, with 1M+ downloads on Play Store150K+ content pieces published by 22K+ authorsLarge penetration amongst women: 71% of the readers and 40% of the writers are women


Creating tech-enabled smart content for large local language population with diverse needs


Increasing Internet usage by tackling language barriers in both content creation and consumption

Sources: YourStory, “Pratilipi Series A”; Hindu Businessline, “Dailyhunt launches newzly a newsinbrief app in 9 languages”; INC42, “Pratilipi Omidyar Network Funding”

Indus OS customises the interface for better local adoption; IFFCO Kisan customises user support for farmers across states

USER ENGAGEMENT: LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Indus OS

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional operating systems for mobiles, made for smartphones customised for needs of India and other emerging markets
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Designed product with an OS built for regional languagesPowers the digital needs of users in a revolutionary contextual and seamless interface that is made to reduce battery and data consumption while making the experience intuitive<ul style="list-style-type: none">Example: Ola available in 12 regional languages catering to 95% of the Indian populationMonetisation: Revenue through licensing fees from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and App Bazaar (Indus OS's marketplace)
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A very popular OS in India, with a user base of 10M+OS available in English and 12 Indian regional languages

Creating a mobile operating platform supporting various languages

IFFCO Kisan

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provides timely, relevant and high-quality information and services to farmers by leveraging mobile phone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mobile application: Provides weather forecasts, market rates, market information, customised advisories, news, etc., in 11 Indian languagesGreen Sim: Provides three daily free voice-based messages in local vernacular language to customersKisan Call Centres (KCCs): Answer farmer's queries via telephone in their own language/dialects. Experts are able to provide them with valuable inputs; two level call handling at KCCs<ul style="list-style-type: none">Level 1 support includes farm tele-advisors (FTAs)Level 2 consists of subject-matter experts (SMEs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">400K+ mobile app users150K+ help line calls answered yearlyLarge scale Agri Value Added Service (VAS) deployment (voice messages, SMS) – 1.8M active users

Providing localised, customised information to farmers (through app, call centre)

Sources: YourStory, "How Indus OS is helping smartphone manufacturers penetrate 'Bharat'"; Firstpost, "Indian startup Indus OS success story published as a case study, will be distributed by Harvard Business Review"; IFFCO Kisan website; GSMA, Case Study—IFFCO Kisan Agricultural App

Create an ecosystem for small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs to help augment income streams

USER ENGAGEMENT: CREATING AN ECOSYSTEM



Improve digital access for small/medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurs

- Provide a B2B platform and back-end support to enable transactions between buyers and sellers; e.g., Udaan
- Build a supplier ecosystem



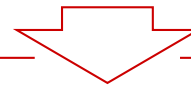
Improve ease of business and productivity—e.g., low-cost performance monitoring, tracking

- Readily deployable, easy to use, low-cost solutions to help small/medium-sized enterprises manage their businesses; e.g., Zoho



Capture value through targeting specific parts of value chain, e.g., last-mile delivery, direct sourcing

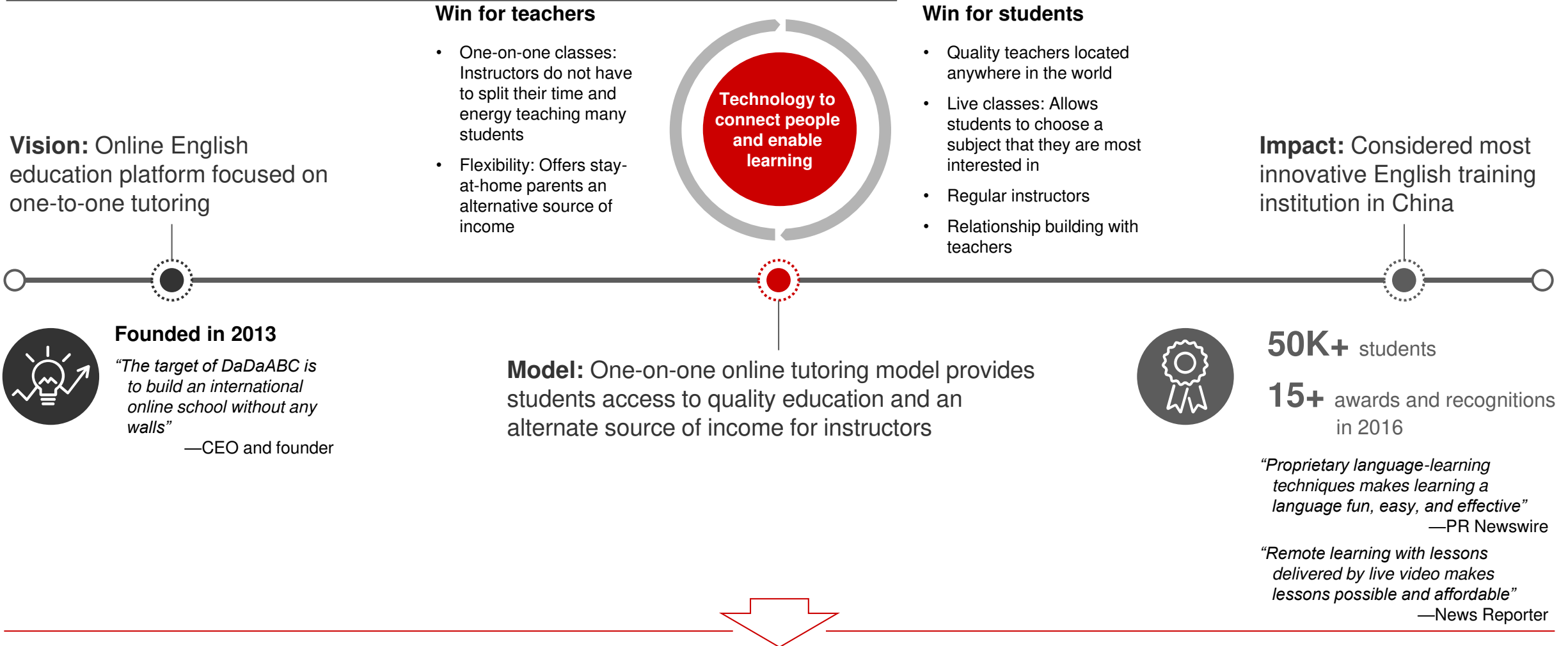
- Drive efficiencies by focusing on specific parts of value chain; e.g., direct farm sourcing for retailers, equipment rental for farmers



Potential to influence 40% of India's workforce employed with 46M MSMEs through informed and connected ecosystems

DaDaABC in China created an innovative learning model for teachers and affordable learning for students

USER ENGAGEMENT: CREATING AN ECOSYSTEM



Built a digital ecosystem enabling improved access to both teachers and students

China Learning built an online literature ecosystem by enabling content consumption and improving ease of use

USER ENGAGEMENT: CREATING AN ECOSYSTEM

- Ecosystem built around writers, IP operations, content adaptation partners and readers
- Bulk of revenue obtained from paid readership on own/self-operated channels

Objective: Build ecosystem to aggregate online literary work



- Set up by Tencent in 2004
- Gives readers access to a multitude of literary content
- Gives writers an opportunity to reach a large audience and generate income



Approach: Distribute through various channels and adapt to other digital formats

Impact: Largest online literature marketplace in China



- Frost & Sullivan ranking: **#1** among online literary platforms
- **6.4M** Talented writer pool
- **9.6M** Literary titles
- **192M** MAU
- **1 hour/day** user engagement on QQ Reading mobile app

Note: MAU is monthly active users

Source: JP Morgan analyst report, "Initiating coverage, APAC Equity Research", 19 January 2018

NowFloats reaches small and medium-sized businesses with their customised digital ecosystem and access to a large market

USER ENGAGEMENT: CREATING AN ECOSYSTEM



Strong geographic and customer growth

- 40 cities in India; growing presence in Tier-3 towns
- Present in 5 countries—US, UAE, Hong Kong, Philippines and India
- 250K+ businesses launched online globally
- 11M+ unique visitors a month



There has been a false belief that Indian SMBs don't pay for software services. Actually, they pay when they see value in a product, and the product must address challenges specific to Indian SMEs"

—Cofounder & COO, NowFloats

Note: SMB is small and medium-sized business

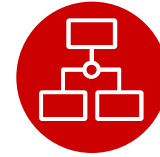
Sources: NowFloats website; *Economic Times*, "NowFloats raises 10mn in a series B round", "NowFloats helps SME gain customer traction"; *Businessworld*, "Markings its presence across North India—Nowfloats records over 38000 live businesses in 3 years"

← Gives small and medium-sized businesses a platform for their websites →



Comprehensive, technology-based website ecosystem, targeting small and medium-sized businesses

- **Creates interactive business websites with end-to-end services**—design, performance, discovery (SEO), marketing (SEM), payment gateway and customer lead management
- **Wide range of products** to cater to every customer requirement:
 - Lighthouse—dynamic website with auto SEO support and live analytics
 - Wildfire—digital marketing support
 - Bizapp—personalised business app
 - Dictate—website content creation



Subscription-based monetisation model

- **Fixed annual subscription fee model** with significant discounts for long-term subscriptions

Players in India are creating tech-based ecosystems for small and medium-sized businesses


USER ENGAGEMENT: CREATING AN ECOSYSTEM

ZOHO

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Objective | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a cohesive set of applications to run an entire business on the cloud |
| Approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering comprehensive, technology-based ecosystem:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Applications for acquiring and serving customers (marketing, sales and support)- Applications to run operations (finance, recruiting and HR)- Collaboration tools (Office suite, mail)• Pay-as-per-use model: Allows SMEs to scale up without high upfront investment |
| Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30M+ users with strong presence in India and also in US and Europe |

Udaan

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connect SME manufacturers and wholesalers with retailers online, provide logistics, payment and technology support |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology-based supply chain model: One-stop solution fulfilling orders placed on its platform through third-party logistics providers• Additional services include order management, accounting and payment management solutions to merchants |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivers to 500+ cities across India; sellers in 80+ cities• Strong commercial momentum: Customers purchase ~7 times a month; conversion rate up to 40% |



Enabling low-cost, flexible means to improve business productivity



Empowering small businesses to connect with retailers online

Strengthen trust from access to transaction to service or product delivery

PURCHASE CONSIDERATION AND RETENTION



Build omnichannel presence

- Critical for sectors in which offline element is key to overcoming trust barriers and/or generate trials
 - E.g., education, agritech, specific e-commerce categories (fresh grocery, apparel)



Build consumer confidence by redefining policies and brand messaging

- Targeted campaigns with a messaging around quality, authenticity, returns
- Policies to support messaging (e.g., service guarantees, clear returns policies)
- Strengthen customer service and grievance redressal mechanisms

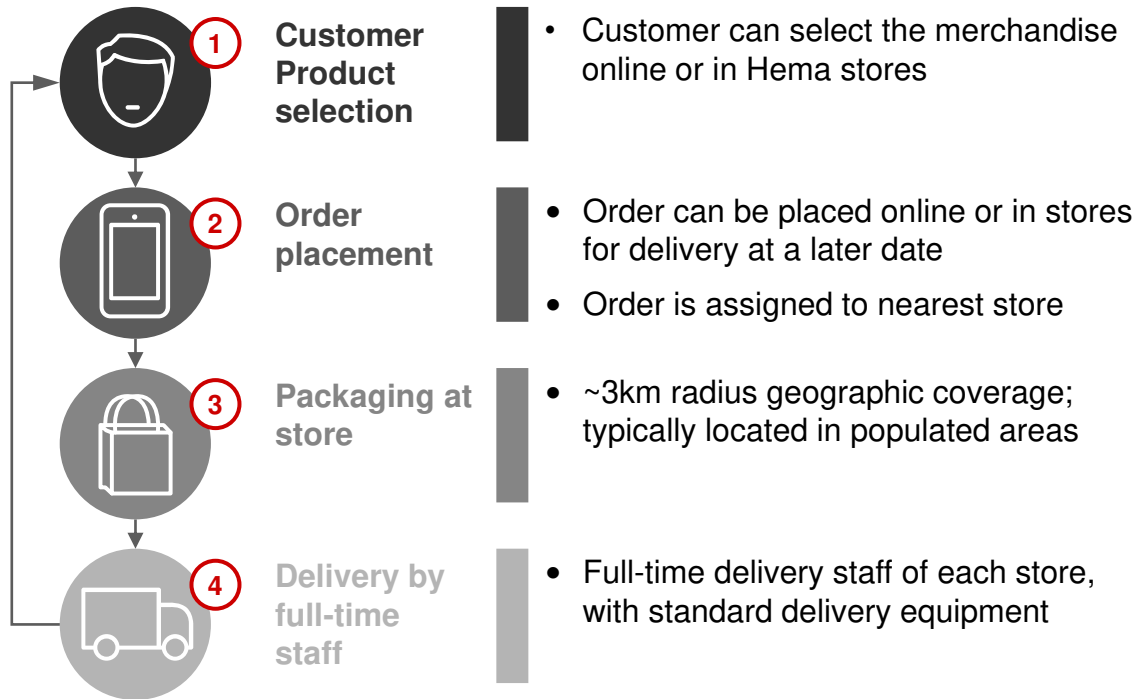


Reengage 54M users who have stopped online product purchase after the first purchase
Help transition 160M internet users who are not currently making any transactions

Hema supermarkets in China built an innovative model to encourage online–offline integration in retail

PURCHASE CONSIDERATION AND RETENTION

Hema stores provide a seamless customer experience



- Founded in 2016 and backed by Alibaba, Hema has 25 stores in two store types (large stores with more services, basic format stores)
- Per-store annual sales are estimated to be ~\$38M
- Offline stores to use capability/network from Alibaba group for procurement, supply chain and payment (exclusive Alipay)

Note: RMB-to-USD conversion, December 2017
Sources: Analyst reports; store visit; lit research; Bain analysis

Innovations that increased transactions per customer



Efficient inventory and logistics management

- Offline stores serve as front warehouse, sharing inventory with online formats
- “In-store selection, Hema delivery” is also provided
- Online orders delivered in 30 minutes within 5km



Digitalised information and operations management

- QR code scan of electronic price tags enables consumers to view product info on mobile phone
- Digitised information also allows accurate shelf merchandising and inventory management



Synchronised online and offline customer data

- Online and offline consumer data is synchronised through payments powered by Alipay
- Customised, behaviour-linked digital marketing
- Data is also helpful in recognising key locations to demonstrate popular products

Byju's integrates offline and online education channels with personalised solutions and content creation as levers

PURCHASE CONSIDERATION AND RETENTION

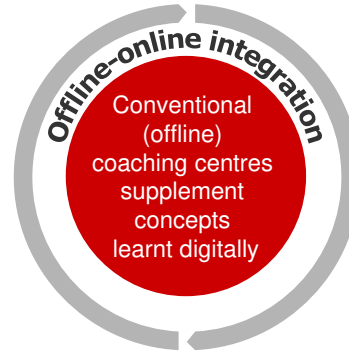
Beginning: Started as an offline venture



- Byju's started as an offline coaching venture
- Transitioned in 2015 when it launched its learning app
- Vision and mission: *"Revolutionise the education system"*

Personalised solutions

- Solutions based on students' needs—reports, data and insights, with customisation tools given to all

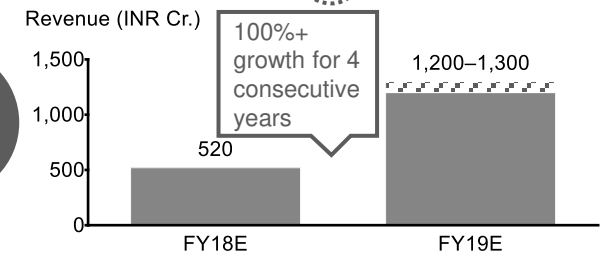


Special content creation

- Videos made by a team that includes educators who are subject-matter experts and animators

Impact: Most trusted leading interactive learning mobile app

Approach: Integrated offline- online at the core



90% annual renewals

700K paid subscribers

15M downloads

Presence in **1700+** towns and cities

TrustPass builds credibility of their suppliers, while Kudo increases online commerce through offline agents

PURCHASE CONSIDERATION AND RETENTION

Kudo*

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a tech-enabled online-to-offline technology platform connecting online merchants and e-commerce players with offline customers through a network of agents
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnered with 25 e-commerce players to aggregate and curate products to on-ground selling agents• Besides FMCG products, fashion and electronics, Kudo also provides financial technology products, insurance and investment, as well as flight tickets and prepaid mobile top-up services
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Built a network of 350K offline agents in 500 Indonesian cities to sell e-commerce products in Tier-2/3 and rural areas• Generates annual sales of ~\$23M



Encourage digital access for both consumers and entrepreneurs, especially outside urban areas

TrustPass

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a system to build buyer confidence and trust in doing business with China's vast supplier base
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplier verification: Alibaba verifies suppliers' business licenses, physical addresses, bank accounts, etc., for a fee through a third party• Various benefits to consumers in doing business with a TrustPass member-created trust:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Easy sourcing experience– Pre-established trust– More products– Genuine business attitude
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led to building of e-commerce infrastructure in China<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Created trust in consumers by building credibility of suppliers and assuring the right product or service



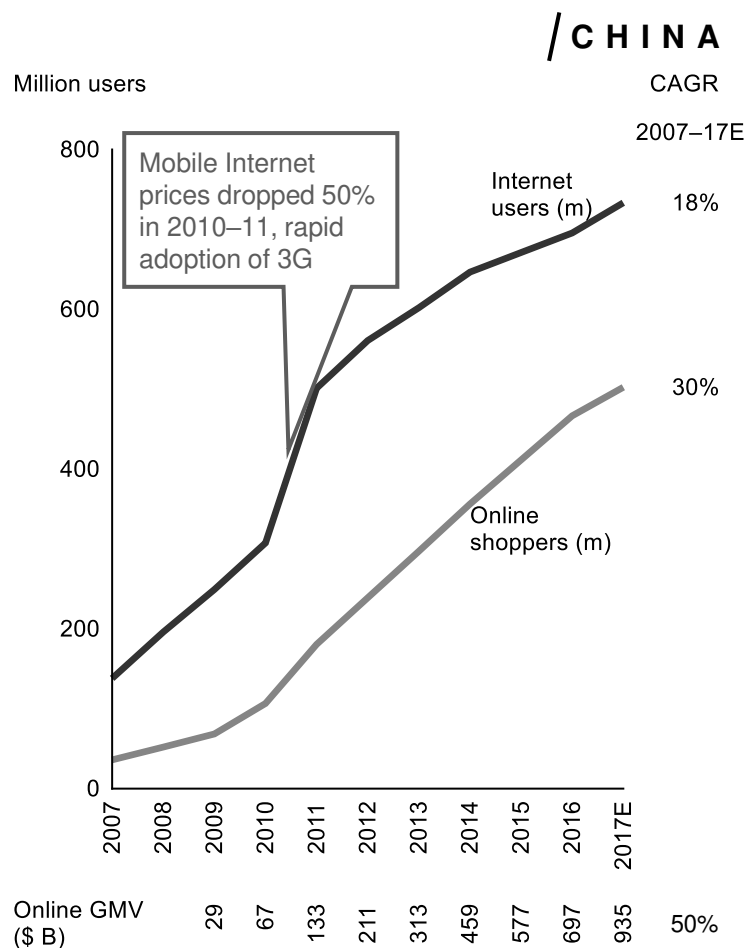
Developing confidence amongst buyers to do business with a large supplier base

A grayscale image showing a hand holding a smartphone. In the background, there is a world map with several white icons of people and an envelope, connected by thin white lines, suggesting a global network or communication. The image has a semi-transparent dark gray band across the middle where the text is located.

Business implications

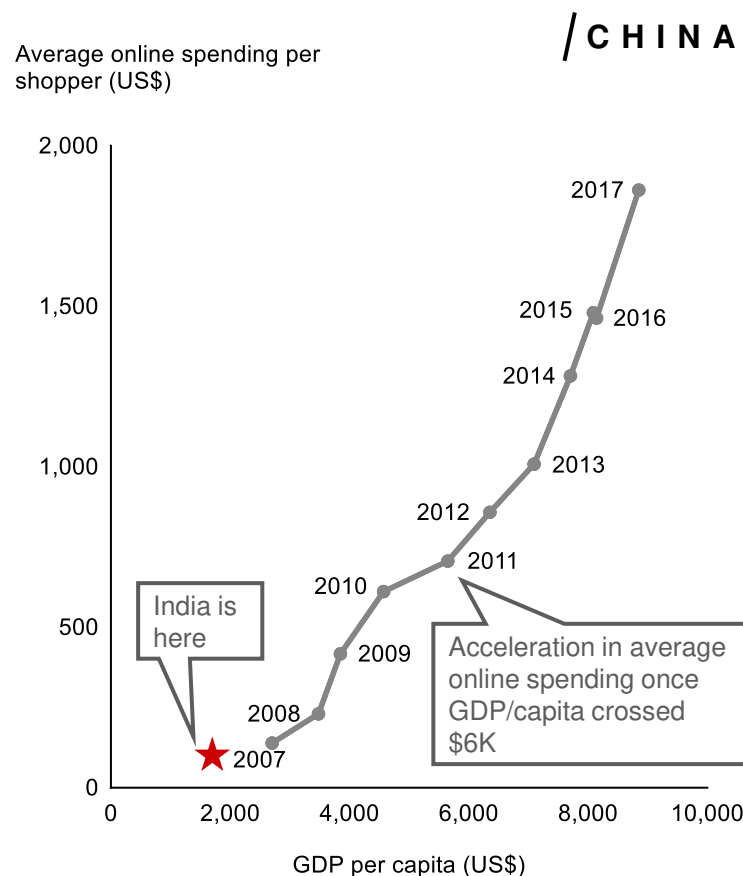
Lessons learned from China, takeaways for India

User base grew after the drop in data prices



Source: Forrester; Euromonitor; Bain analysis

Sharp rise in online spending



Implications for India

- Internet user base will continue growing, led by falling data prices and initiatives to increase awareness and usage
- Average online spend per user will rise but will continue to be limited by low GDP/capita

- ↓
- Consumer willingness and ability to spend online will be low over the medium term
 - Implying that businesses will have to find frugal and innovative ways to sustain themselves and wait longer for scale

Monetisation continues to be a challenge; some alternate monetisation models emerging (apart from ads, direct consumers)

Takeaways

- (A) Exceed the expectations for convenience and trust in **offline channels**, then charge for it.
- (B) Increase customer loyalty through **subscription- or membership-based models**.
- (C) Generate trials and form habits through **delayed monetisation or freemium models**.
- (D) Monetise from other **participants in the ecosystem**, not just consumers.
- (E) Capture greater share across value chain (e.g., reduce number of intermediaries, increase private label offerings).

A BookMyShow provides a clear customer proposition on convenience and charges for it

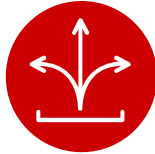
MONETISATION

EXCEED THE CONVENIENCE AND TRUST OF OFFLINE CHANNELS



Objective

- Organise the unorganised ticketing system for entertainment (primarily movies)
- Become a one-stop destination for updates in the entertainment industry



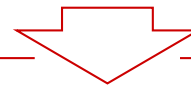
Approach

- Changed the face of the ticketing system via partnership with most leading multiplex chains, theatres and event management companies
- Revenue model primarily based on convenience:
 - Ticketing revenue (~60% revenue): Internet handling fees and commission on ticket booking; commission as a part of tickets on non-movie events
 - Non-ticketing revenue (advertising and promotion): Provides companies an “interest creation” boost with online audience



Impact:

- 50M+ app downloads
- 15M+ tickets per month with 80% share of online entertainment ticketing
- 5,000+ screens in 650+ towns and cities in 5 countries



Built a large customer base (with willingness to pay) because of convenience of offering

- Ⓑ Hotstar is building a large user base with a freemium model and complementing it
Ⓒ with a membership-based model

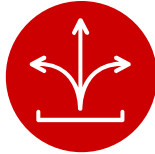
MONETISATION

MEMBERSHIP-BASED MODELS + FREEMIUM MODELS



Objective

- Revolutionise content consumption in India using mobile, and become a complete video destination for over-the-top video consumers



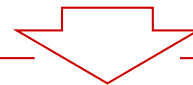
Approach

- Freemium model (subscription-based)—offer some content for free while some is paid
- Innovative customer retention cum monetisation model—offer one-year membership at Rs. 999 to new and returning users, which is 70%+ off the usual price



Impact:

- Explosive growth:
 - 1M downloads within 6 days of launch in 2015
 - Subscriber base of ~75–100M in August 2017
- 100,000+ hours of TV content and movies across 9 languages
- Global record for highest number of concurrent viewers for a single event by an online broadcaster with 8.26M views in Indian Premier League 2018



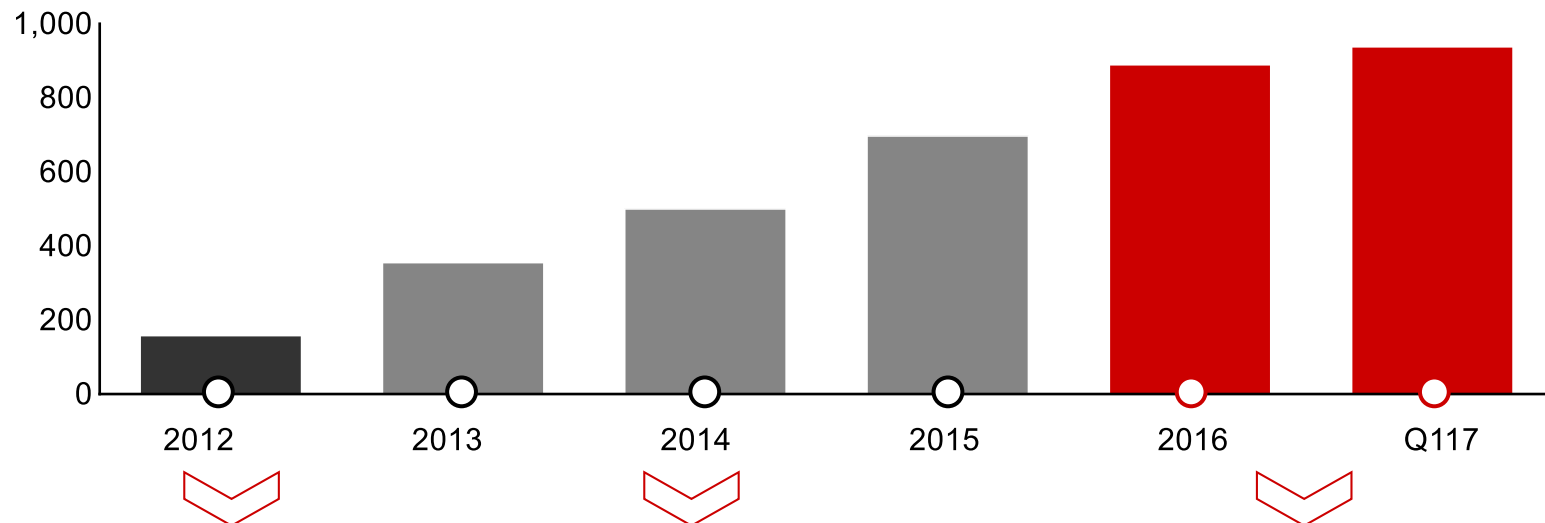
A freemium model led to users forming habits and become paying customers

C WeChat kept free access but started monetising from stakeholders **D**

MONETISATION

FREEMIUM MODELS—MONETISE FROM OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

WeChat Monthly active users (M)



1 Started as IM tool

- Captured mobilisation trend and started by imitating existing products
- Initial features ruthlessly focused on driving early user base

2 Enriching content and features

- More social networking and content features to increase user engagement
- User experience—centric product design to optimise user loyalty

3 Digital ecosystem

- Serves as a gateway to other online services that can be monetised
- Kept developing new initiatives using Big Data and traffic from huge user base



④ Tech giants in China are pursuing opportunities across fintech to monetise the acquired customer base

MONETISATION

MONETISE FROM OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Company	Market					
	Payment	Wealth management	Financing	Credit rating	Insurance	Others
Alibaba	• Alipay	• Ant Fortune • Mybank.cn	• Mybank.cn • Ant check later	• Zhima Credit	• ZhongAn • Cathay Insurance	• ANTSDAQ • Ant Financial Cloud
Tencent	• WeChat Pay	• Li Cai Tong • WeBank	• Tenpay • WeBank	• Tencent Credit	• ZhongAn • Hetalife	• Tencent Cloud • Futu5
JD.com	• Pay/Wallet	• Xiaobailicai • Xiaojinku	• Baitiao • Jingxiaodai (loan)	• Xiaobaixingyong (JD Credit)	• JD Insurance	• Jingdongzhongchou (equity crowdfunding) • JCloud
Baidu	• Baidu Wallet	• AiBank • Baidu Licai	• Baidu Umoney • AiBank	• Baidu Umoney	• Bai'an Insurance	• Baidu Cloud • Baidu Jinrongshangcheng (jin.baidu.com)

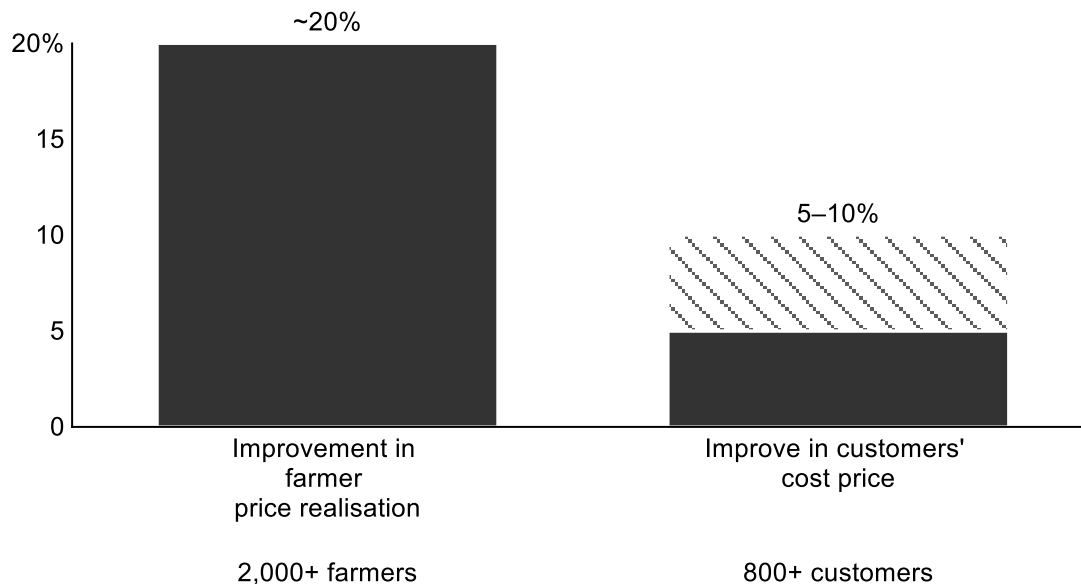
Notes: Alibaba is the largest shareholder of Zhong'An Insurance, while Tencent and Ping'an also hold share as the second-largest shareholders; Alipay, WeChat Pay and Lufax have overseas offerings; Zhong'An plans to be listed overseas

① Ninjacart created a sustainable business model by removing inefficiencies in Indian agricultural marketplace

MONETISATION

VALUE CAPTURE ACROSS VALUE CHAIN

Ninjacart offers better prices for farmers and lower costs for customers



“

Inefficiencies could be seen in almost every aspect. There were a lot of middlemen involved; there was no price transparency whatsoever, resulting in farmers hardly making any money in this whole scenario”

—Co-founder & CEO

Ninjacart reduced intermediaries in the agricultural value chain and improved efficiency

Created a B2B tech-enabled marketing platform

- **Tech-enabled online marketing platform**
 - Allows retailers/merchants to source directly from farmers
 - Supports planning, sales, warehousing operations
- **Farmer education to drive adoption**
 - Provides an efficient price discovery platform to farmers
 - Educates about the process transparency
 - Discusses beneficial varieties of seeds and suggests best practices to get good yield
- **Smooth payment mechanism:** Farmers receive payment immediately via a bank transfer

Business model reduces intermediaries in value chain, leading to better farmer/customer realisation

- **Removes layers of middlemen** between suppliers (farmers) and consumers (retail stores), additionally providing value-added services
- **Better price to farmers:** Farmers (suppliers) are able to sell produce at a better price due to reduced number of intermediaries
- **Competitive prices and convenience to retailers:** Efficient supply chain at competitive prices



Acknowledgements

This report is the result of collaboration amongst Bain & Company, Google India and Omidyar Network and was written by the following people:

Bain & Company

Arpan Sheth

Partner and Leader in the Private Equity practice

Joydeep Bhattacharya

Partner and Leader in the Consumer Products and Retail practice

Amit Shah

Manager in the Private Equity, Consumer Products and Retail practice

Google India Private Limited

Rajan Anandan

Vice President, India and South East Asia Sales and Operations

Vikas Agnihotri

Director Sales India

Pankaj Gupta

Head–Sales Strategy and Operations

Raman Chadha

Lead–Sales Strategy and Operations

Omidyar Network

Roopa Kudva

Partner & Managing Director at Omidyar Network India

Siddharth Nautiyal

Investment Partner at Omidyar Network India

Sushant Kumar

Senior Manager, leads Intellectual Capital at Omidyar Network in India

The authors would like to thank Maggie Locher, Shelza Khan, Fuad Januhasan and Harvinder Singh from Bain for their editorial and design support and especially want to thank various individuals who contributed rich insights through their interviews, including several entrepreneurs across the Indian ecosystem.

Key contacts

Arpan Sheth, Partner, Bain & Company (arpan.sheth@bain.com)

Joydeep Bhattacharya, Partner, Bain & Company (joydeep.bhattacharya@bain.com)

Amit Shah, Manager, Bain & Company (amit.shah@bain.com)

For media queries:

Shubham Mukherjee, Bain & Company (shubham.mukherjee@bain.com)

About Bain & Company

Bain & Company is the management consulting firm that the world's business leaders come to when they want results. Bain advises clients on strategy, operations, information technology, organization, private equity, digital transformation and strategy, and mergers and acquisition, developing practical insights that clients act on and transferring skills that make change stick. The firm aligns its incentives with clients by linking its fees to their results. Bain clients have outperformed the stock market 4 to 1. Founded in 1973, Bain has 56 offices in 36 countries, and its deep expertise and client roster cross every industry and economic sector. For more information visit: www.bain.com. Follow us on Twitter @BainAlerts and @BainIndia

About Google India Private Limited

Google India Private Limited (Google India) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Google LLC. It is engaged in the business of marketing & selling advertisement space and rendering Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES).

About Omidyar Network

Omidyar Network is a philanthropic investment firm dedicated to harnessing the power of markets to create opportunity for people to improve their lives. Established in 2004 by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar and his wife Pam, the organization invests in and helps scale innovative organizations to catalyze economic and social change. Omidyar Network has committed more than \$1 billion to for-profit companies and nonprofit organizations that foster economic advancement and encourage individual participation across multiple initiatives, including Digital Identity, Education, Emerging Tech, Financial Inclusion, Governance & Citizen Engagement, and Property Rights.

