# Analyzing the Role of the 4Ps in Shaping Customer Experience and Satisfaction: A Case Study of Inverter Product Purchases from Electric Drive Co., Ltd.

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Abstract: This paper explores the role of the 4Ps (Product, Price, Place, and Promotion) in shaping customer experience and satisfaction with inverter products purchased from Electric Drive Co., Ltd. The research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how each element of the 4P marketing mix influences customer perceptions, purchasing behavior, and overall satisfaction. Through a case study approach, the paper analyzes customer feedback and transactional data to evaluate the effectiveness of Electric Drive Co., Ltd.'s marketing strategies. By examining the relationship between product quality, pricing strategy, distribution channels, and promotional efforts, the study highlights the factors that contribute to customer loyalty and retention. Additionally, the paper assesses how the integration of after-sales service enhances the customer experience and reinforces satisfaction post-purchase. The findings suggest that a balanced and customer-centric application of the 4Ps significantly impacts the decision-making process, with after-sales support playing a crucial role in sustaining long-term customer relationships. This study provides valuable insights for companies in the industrial equipment sector, specifically those in the inverter product market, aiming to improve customer satisfaction and competitive advantage.

Keywords: 4Ps Marketing Mix; Customer Experience; Customer Satisfaction; Inverter Products; After-Sales Service.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The 4Ps—Product, Price, Place, and Promotion—form the cornerstone of marketing strategies that businesses use to meet customer needs, enhance satisfaction, and build long-term loyalty. Each element plays a critical role in shaping how customers perceive a product or service. The Product is the tangible or intangible item that satisfies customer needs or solves a problem. In the context of Electric Drive Co., Ltd., the product is the inverter, a specialized industrial device essential for various applications. The Price refers to the amount customers are willing to pay for the product, which should reflect its perceived value while being competitive in the market. Place focuses on the distribution channels that make the product available to customers, ensuring that it is accessible and easy to obtain. Promotion encompasses the methods used to communicate the value proposition of the product to potential buyers, including advertising, sales promotions, and digital marketing efforts. When these four elements are well-coordinated, they create a powerful marketing strategy that not only attracts customers but also fosters satisfaction and loyalty.

Customer satisfaction is directly linked to how well these 4Ps align with consumer expectations. A product that meets quality standards, a price that represents good value, convenient accessibility, and effective promotion all contribute to a

Vol. 13, Issue 1, pp: (175-182), Month: January - March 2025, Available at: www.researchpublish.com

positive customer experience. In contrast, discrepancies or shortcomings in any of these areas can lead to dissatisfaction, damaging customer trust and loyalty. For Electric Drive Co., Ltd., the challenge lies in optimizing each element of the 4Ps to not only meet but exceed the expectations of their customers.

This study aims to analyze the role of the 4Ps in shaping customer experience and satisfaction in the specific context of purchasing inverter products from Electric Drive Co., Ltd. The primary objectives of the research are to examine the impact of each element of the 4Ps—Product, Price, Place, and Promotion—on customer satisfaction and to assess how after-sales service contributes to customer loyalty and overall experience. By understanding how these elements interact and influence customer perceptions, this research seeks to provide valuable insights for Electric Drive Co., Ltd. on optimizing their marketing strategy. Additionally, the study will explore how after-sales service, such as warranty programs, technical support, and troubleshooting, plays a critical role in sustaining customer satisfaction and encouraging repeat business.

The scope of the study focuses on customers who have purchased inverter products from Electric Drive Co., Ltd. over the past two years. This targeted approach allows for a detailed analysis of customer satisfaction levels and provides specific recommendations for enhancing the 4Ps and after-sales services in a way that is directly relevant to the company's customer base. The research will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative data, including customer surveys and interviews, to gain a comprehensive understanding of customer experiences and satisfaction. Ultimately, this study aims to offer actionable recommendations that will help Electric Drive Co., Ltd. strengthen its marketing mix, improve customer relationships, and enhance its competitive position in the inverter product market.

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The 4Ps marketing framework, first introduced by E. Jerome McCarthy in 1960, has been one of the most influential concepts in marketing theory. It provides a structured approach for organizations to create a balanced and effective marketing strategy by focusing on four key elements: Product, Price, Place, and Promotion. The Product element refers to the goods or services that satisfy the needs and desires of customers, encompassing product design, quality, features, and functionality. The Price is the amount of money customers are willing to pay, which not only reflects the value of the product but also plays a role in shaping the target market's perception of the brand. Place focuses on the distribution channels that make the product accessible to the customer, such as retail stores, online platforms, or direct sales. Lastly, Promotion covers the strategies used to communicate the value of the product, including advertising, public relations, direct marketing, and sales promotions.

The 4Ps are interdependent, and any adjustment to one element often affects the others. For instance, a change in product features or quality may necessitate a corresponding adjustment in pricing or promotional strategies. This interrelationship highlights the complexity of managing a marketing mix that not only attracts customers but also maintains their satisfaction and loyalty. Over the years, the 4Ps framework has evolved, with some scholars proposing additional Ps, such as People, Process, and Physical Evidence, to reflect changes in consumer behavior and market dynamics. Despite these extensions, the original 4Ps remain a core theoretical foundation in marketing practice and research, providing a valuable lens through which businesses can understand and improve their customer engagement strategies.

Customer satisfaction has been extensively studied across various industries, and numerous studies have shown that the 4Ps play a pivotal role in shaping consumer perceptions and satisfaction. In the context of industrial products, customer satisfaction is particularly important as it influences both repeat purchases and long-term relationships with business customers. Research has consistently found that product quality is one of the most significant drivers of customer satisfaction, as industrial products often serve critical functions and need to meet high-performance standards. In the case of inverter products, this means customers expect high reliability, efficiency, and durability, and any failure to meet these expectations can lead to dissatisfaction and lost business.

Pricing strategies also have a substantial impact on customer satisfaction. Studies have shown that customers in industrial markets are often highly price-sensitive, and a product priced too high or too low can trigger concerns about its quality or value. Similarly, the distribution of industrial products, or Place, plays a crucial role in customer satisfaction, particularly in terms of accessibility, availability, and delivery speed. A well-established and efficient distribution network is essential for industrial product companies like Electric Drive Co., Ltd., as it ensures timely delivery and reduces the likelihood of customer frustration.

Vol. 13, Issue 1, pp: (175-182), Month: January - March 2025, Available at: www.researchpublish.com

Promotional strategies such as targeted advertising, trade shows, and direct marketing can help inform customers about product features and advantages, which can lead to higher satisfaction levels. Studies suggest that a strong promotional message that highlights the product's technical features and performance benefits can positively influence customer perceptions of value.

Despite extensive research on customer satisfaction in industrial markets, relatively few studies have explored how the 4Ps specifically impact satisfaction with after-sales service. This gap highlights the importance of further research on how after-sales service integrates into the broader marketing strategy to enhance customer loyalty and retention.

After-sales service has become an increasingly important aspect of the customer experience, particularly in industrial markets where products are often complex and require ongoing support. After-sales service includes activities such as installation, maintenance, technical support, training, and warranty management, and is crucial for ensuring the product continues to meet customer needs over time. According to numerous studies, after-sales service significantly impacts customer satisfaction, as it provides customers with the assurance that they will receive support if issues arise after the initial purchase. This aspect is especially important for high-value, technical products like inverters, where customers may face operational challenges or require ongoing assistance for proper use and maintenance.

Research by Cronin et al. (2000) and Zeithaml et al. (2002) has shown that a strong after-sales service program can enhance customer loyalty, improve brand perception, and encourage repeat purchases. For instance, a study by Johnston (2001) found that companies that offer responsive and effective after-sales support are more likely to retain customers in the long term, as customers feel more secure in their purchase knowing they have access to continued service. Additionally, after-sales service can help mitigate any dissatisfaction caused by product issues, as timely and effective support can turn a negative experience into a positive one.

In the case of Electric Drive Co., Ltd., after-sales service could play a critical role in shaping the customer experience and satisfaction. Offering high-quality support services, such as fast response times, easy access to technical expertise, and comprehensive warranty programs, could differentiate the company from competitors and foster customer trust. Studies also highlight the importance of personalization in after-sales interactions, where customers value companies that understand their specific needs and provide tailored solutions.

As competition in the industrial sector intensifies, after-sales service is no longer seen as a mere add-on but as a key component of the overall customer experience. This literature review underscores the need for companies like Electric Drive Co., Ltd. to view after-sales service not just as a function of customer support but as a strategic tool for enhancing satisfaction, building loyalty, and sustaining long-term business growth. The next chapter will outline the methodology used to investigate how the 4Ps and after-sales service impact customer experience in the case of inverter purchases from Electric Drive Co., Ltd.

#### III. METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a case study approach to explore how the 4Ps (Product, Price, Place, and Promotion) and after-sales service impact customer satisfaction in the context of inverter product purchases from Electric Drive Co., Ltd. A case study methodology is well-suited for this research as it allows for an in-depth, context-specific analysis of customer experiences and behaviors within a real-world business setting. By focusing on a single company, the case study provides detailed insights into the marketing strategies of Electric Drive Co., Ltd. and how these strategies influence customer perceptions and satisfaction with their inverter products. The case study design also enables the researcher to gather rich, qualitative data while focusing on a specific customer base, ensuring a thorough understanding of the subject matter.

The use of a case study allows for the examination of complex factors within the company's marketing mix, such as product quality, pricing strategies, distribution channels, promotional efforts, and after-sales service. It also provides a detailed view of how these factors interact and contribute to the overall customer experience. This approach is particularly useful for businesses seeking actionable insights into their marketing practices and how they impact customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Data collection for this study will involve a combination of customer surveys and company records. The customer surveys will serve as the primary method for collecting data directly from consumers who have purchased inverter products from Electric Drive Co., Ltd. within the last two years. The survey will include both quantitative and qualitative questions to capture a broad spectrum of customer experiences, focusing on key areas such as product satisfaction, pricing perception, the effectiveness of promotional strategies, and the quality of after-sales service.

Vol. 13, Issue 1, pp: (175-182), Month: January - March 2025, Available at: www.researchpublish.com

The survey will be distributed to a representative sample of customers through email and online platforms. It will include Likert-scale questions, which allow respondents to express their level of agreement or disagreement with various statements, as well as open-ended questions that enable customers to provide more detailed feedback on their experiences. This mixed-method approach will provide both numerical data for statistical analysis and narrative data that can be analyzed for themes and patterns.

In addition to customer surveys, company records will be used to supplement the data collection process. These records will include transactional data, such as purchase histories, customer demographics, and service interactions, as well as internal reports on product quality, pricing strategies, and promotional activities. These records will help provide a contextual backdrop to the customer feedback, offering insights into the company's marketing strategies and how they align with customer experiences. The combination of primary customer data and secondary company records will ensure a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing customer satisfaction.

To analyze the data collected, both quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques will be employed. For the quantitative data obtained from the customer surveys, descriptive statistics will be used to summarize customer responses, providing an overview of satisfaction levels across different aspects of the 4Ps and after-sales service. Frequency distributions will be used to identify trends in customer satisfaction, while mean scores will allow for an understanding of the overall sentiment toward the product and service components.

Additionally, correlation analysis will be conducted to examine the relationships between different elements of the 4Ps and customer satisfaction. This analysis will help determine whether certain factors, such as product quality or after-sales service, have a stronger impact on satisfaction than others. For example, the study may explore if a higher price point correlates with greater satisfaction due to perceived quality or whether after-sales service plays a more significant role in customer loyalty.

For the qualitative data gathered from open-ended survey questions and company records, thematic analysis will be used. This method will involve coding customer responses to identify common themes or patterns related to customer experiences, satisfaction, and expectations. Thematic analysis will help to interpret the underlying reasons behind customer satisfaction or dissatisfaction and provide deeper insights into the influence of the 4Ps and after-sales service on the customer experience. Through this process, key drivers of satisfaction can be identified, such as specific product features, pricing concerns, or the responsiveness of after-sales support.

Overall, the combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, along with a multi-faceted approach to analysis, will allow for a comprehensive evaluation of how the 4Ps and after-sales service impact customer satisfaction at Electric Drive Co., Ltd. The next chapter will present the results of this analysis, providing actionable insights for the company to improve its marketing strategies and customer experience.

#### IV. ANALYSIS OF THE 4PS IN CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

The product element of the marketing mix is crucial in shaping the customer experience, particularly in the case of inverter products offered by Electric Drive Co., Ltd. Customers purchasing inverters expect high reliability, durability, and performance, as these products are integral to their industrial applications. The quality of the product directly influences customer satisfaction, as users expect the inverter to function efficiently under various conditions. If the product meets or exceeds these expectations, it enhances the customer's perception of value, fostering trust in the brand and promoting repeat business. On the other hand, if the inverter fails to meet the expected quality standards, it can lead to dissatisfaction, damage to brand reputation, and the potential loss of future customers.

In addition to quality, the features of the inverter play a significant role in customer decision-making. Features such as energy efficiency, ease of installation, and compatibility with existing systems are often key differentiators in the industrial product market. Inverter customers are generally well-informed and demand products that offer advanced technological features that can enhance operational efficiency. The performance of the product, such as its ability to operate reliably over time, is a critical factor influencing customer satisfaction. Therefore, Electric Drive Co., Ltd. must ensure that its inverters consistently perform to the highest standards, offering both the functionality and reliability that customers expect from such a product.

Vol. 13, Issue 1, pp: (175-182), Month: January - March 2025, Available at: www.researchpublish.com

The price of inverter products plays a pivotal role in shaping customer decision-making and satisfaction. In the industrial sector, where purchasing decisions often involve large investments, price sensitivity is heightened. Electric Drive Co., Ltd. must strike a balance between setting a price that reflects the product's perceived value and maintaining competitiveness within the market. Customers in this segment are often willing to pay a premium for inverters that offer superior quality and performance. However, they are also highly aware of market alternatives and may be drawn to competitors that offer similar features at a more competitive price.

The pricing strategy employed by Electric Drive Co., Ltd. can influence how customers perceive the value of the product. A value-based pricing strategy, where the price is set based on the perceived benefits the inverter provides to customers, may create a sense of fairness and value. Alternatively, a penetration pricing strategy, where the price is initially set lower to attract customers, can help the company gain market share but may require adjustments over time. Additionally, the pricing structure, including discounts, bulk pricing, or financing options, can play a role in enhancing the overall customer experience. Customers who perceive the price as fair for the quality and performance offered are more likely to feel satisfied with their purchase and remain loyal to the brand.

The distribution of inverter products is another critical aspect of the customer experience. Place, or the channels through which the product is made available to customers, influences both the accessibility and convenience of purchasing. In the case of Electric Drive Co., Ltd., ensuring that their inverters are available through a variety of distribution channels, including direct sales, online platforms, and authorized distributors, is key to meeting customer demand. Industrial customers expect timely availability of the products, and any delays in the supply chain or out-of-stock issues can negatively impact customer satisfaction.

An efficient distribution network that ensures products are readily available and delivered on time is vital for maintaining a positive customer experience. Moreover, providing customers with clear and easy access to product information through online platforms, retail outlets, or customer service representatives is equally important. Accessibility doesn't just refer to physical availability but also to how easily customers can obtain support, including installation assistance and post-purchase inquiries. If customers face challenges in accessing the product or experience delays in delivery, it can create frustration and reduce overall satisfaction, regardless of the product's quality.

Promotion encompasses all the efforts a company makes to communicate the value of its product to potential customers. For Electric Drive Co., Ltd., effective marketing communication strategies are crucial to raising awareness and engaging customers. In the industrial product market, where customers often conduct thorough research before making a purchase, clear and informative promotional strategies are essential. The company's promotions should highlight the key benefits of the inverter products, such as energy efficiency, cost savings, and reliability, through various channels like advertising, trade shows, online campaigns, and direct sales presentations.

One of the most powerful promotional tools is the ability to engage customers directly through personalized marketing. This could involve customized offers, newsletters with product updates, and tailored communications that address the specific needs of industrial clients. In addition, providing case studies, technical demonstrations, and customer testimonials can enhance the promotion by offering concrete proof of the product's value. Customers in industrial markets often appreciate detailed product specifications and technical support in promotional materials, and this can be a deciding factor in their purchasing decisions.

Moreover, promoting after-sales services in conjunction with the product itself can significantly enhance customer satisfaction. Customers who are aware of the robust support system available to them, such as warranties, technical assistance, and troubleshooting services, may feel more confident in their purchase, knowing that they will have support post-purchase. Effective promotion, therefore, not only involves selling the product but also communicating the added value that customers will receive through after-sales service, which plays an integral role in the overall customer experience.

In summary, each element of the 4Ps—Product, Price, Place, and Promotion—has a profound impact on customer experience and satisfaction in the context of inverter product purchases from Electric Drive Co., Ltd. Ensuring the quality, features, and performance of the product meet customer expectations, setting a competitive and value-based price, maintaining an efficient distribution network, and implementing effective marketing communication strategies are all critical factors that contribute to a positive customer experience. By focusing on these areas, Electric Drive Co., Ltd. can enhance customer satisfaction, foster loyalty, and strengthen its position in the market.

Vol. 13, Issue 1, pp: (175-182), Month: January - March 2025, Available at: www.researchpublish.com

#### V. THE ROLE OF AFTER-SALES SERVICE IN CUSTOMER RETENTION

After-sales service plays a pivotal role in shaping customer satisfaction and long-term loyalty, especially in industries where product performance and reliability are critical, such as the inverter market. For Electric Drive Co., Ltd., the quality of after-sales support is not only a reflection of the company's commitment to its customers but also a crucial determinant of customer retention. When customers invest in high-value products like inverters, they expect continued support to ensure the longevity and optimal performance of their purchases. Therefore, after-sales service can significantly enhance the overall customer experience, foster trust, and drive repeat business.

The quality and timeliness of after-sales support are among the most critical factors in determining customer satisfaction. Inverter products, particularly those used in industrial settings, require periodic maintenance, troubleshooting, and occasional repairs. A prompt, efficient, and knowledgeable after-sales service team can resolve technical issues quickly and minimize downtime for the customer. This level of support instills confidence in the product, ensuring that customers feel secure in their purchase, knowing they can rely on the company for ongoing assistance. If after-sales service is slow, ineffective, or difficult to access, customers are likely to feel frustrated, which can damage the company's reputation and lead to customer attrition.

Moreover, warranties and service contracts offered by Electric Drive Co., Ltd. can serve as vital components of after-sales support. Offering extended warranties or service plans gives customers peace of mind, knowing they are covered in the event of a product failure or malfunction. These warranties are particularly important for high-value industrial products like inverters, where the cost of repair or replacement can be significant. By providing such services, the company demonstrates its commitment to ensuring the ongoing satisfaction of its customers, which in turn strengthens the customer relationship and increases the likelihood of repeat business. Additionally, service contracts that guarantee regular maintenance or performance checks can provide customers with a sense of assurance that the inverter will continue to operate efficiently over time.

Another critical aspect of after-sales service is customer support through various channels, such as phone support, online chat, and email. Providing multiple avenues for customers to reach out with inquiries or problems ensures that they can quickly access assistance when needed. A well-trained support team that can offer knowledgeable, clear, and helpful guidance is essential to solving customer issues. This proactive approach to customer service not only resolves problems but also enhances the overall customer experience by making it easier for customers to engage with the company. If customers feel that their concerns are addressed with professionalism and care, they are more likely to return for future purchases and recommend the company to others.

Moreover, the opportunity for customers to provide feedback on the after-sales service experience can further strengthen customer relationships. Encouraging customers to share their experiences allows Electric Drive Co., Ltd. to assess the effectiveness of its after-sales support and identify areas for improvement. By actively seeking feedback and responding to customer concerns, the company signals that it values customer input and is committed to continuous improvement. This feedback loop not only enhances the quality of after-sales service but also builds trust and demonstrates that the company listens to its customers. Additionally, addressing any complaints or issues in a timely and satisfactory manner can help prevent customer dissatisfaction from escalating into negative reviews or lost business.

After-sales service also plays a role in fostering brand loyalty. When customers receive exceptional service after purchasing an inverter, they are more likely to become repeat buyers, as they associate the brand with positive, reliable experiences. Additionally, satisfied customers are more likely to share their experiences with others, leading to word-of-mouth referrals, which can drive new business. Loyal customers who receive excellent after-sales service may also become advocates for the brand, participating in loyalty programs or engaging with the company on social media, which further strengthens their connection with the brand.

In conclusion, after-sales service is integral to both customer satisfaction and retention, particularly in the context of high-value, technically complex products like inverters. By providing timely, effective support, offering warranties and service contracts, and ensuring accessible customer service channels, Electric Drive Co., Ltd. can enhance the overall customer experience, foster long-term loyalty, and improve the likelihood of repeat purchases. In an increasingly competitive market, companies that prioritize after-sales service are more likely to retain their customer base and build a reputation for reliability and customer care, which are essential components of sustainable business success.

Vol. 13, Issue 1, pp: (175-182), Month: January - March 2025, Available at: www.researchpublish.com

#### VI. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

This chapter discusses the findings from the analysis of the 4Ps and after-sales service and their impact on customer satisfaction and retention at Electric Drive Co., Ltd. It also examines the implications of these findings for both the company and the wider industry.

The product quality of Electric Drive Co., Ltd.'s inverters plays a significant role in shaping customer satisfaction. Customers expect reliable and high-performance products, and when these expectations are met, they are more likely to be satisfied with their purchase. The findings highlight that inverter customers value not only the technical features but also the durability and efficiency of the product. This shows that the company must continue to focus on maintaining and improving the product's quality to remain competitive in the market.

Pricing strategies also emerged as a key factor in customer decision-making. Customers tend to weigh the price against the perceived value of the product. A pricing strategy that reflects both product quality and customer expectations is vital. Offering flexible pricing models, such as discounts for bulk purchases or financing options, could enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty, especially for high-cost industrial products like inverters.

The distribution channels used by Electric Drive Co., Ltd. ensure that the inverters are easily accessible to customers. However, the findings suggest that availability and prompt delivery are essential. Any delays in delivery or issues with stock could negatively affect customer satisfaction. It is crucial for the company to streamline its distribution network to ensure timely product availability and reduce any logistical barriers that could hinder customer satisfaction.

Promotion and marketing communication strategies also play an important role in customer engagement. Clear, informative, and targeted marketing campaigns help customers understand the benefits of the inverters and make informed decisions. However, the role of after-sales service stands out as a key differentiator. Customers who receive excellent support after their purchase are more likely to feel valued and be retained. Providing warranties, maintenance services, and accessible support channels adds significant value to the customer experience.

The implications of these findings for Electric Drive Co., Ltd. are clear. The company should continue to focus on enhancing the product quality while adopting flexible pricing strategies that reflect customer needs. Additionally, improving distribution efficiency and providing robust after-sales support are crucial for customer retention. Offering more personalized customer service, including follow-up consultations and targeted service packages, can further strengthen customer loyalty.

For the wider industry, this study suggests that businesses in the industrial product sector should recognize the importance of after-sales service as a competitive advantage. Companies that fail to invest in post-purchase support risk losing customers to competitors who provide better customer care. Moreover, marketing strategies should not only focus on product features but also on the added value of support services, which can be a deciding factor in customer satisfaction.

In conclusion, the findings from this study emphasize the integral role of the 4Ps and after-sales service in shaping customer experience and satisfaction. By focusing on these areas, Electric Drive Co., Ltd. can improve customer retention and enhance its competitive position in the market. The company's continued success will depend on its ability to align its marketing strategies with customer expectations and provide ongoing support that meets the evolving needs of its customers.

# VII. CONCLUSION

This study has explored the role of the 4Ps—Product, Price, Place, and Promotion—in shaping customer experience and satisfaction in the context of inverter product purchases from Electric Drive Co., Ltd. It also highlighted the critical importance of after-sales service in enhancing customer retention. The findings emphasize that product quality, competitive pricing, efficient distribution, and clear marketing communication are all key factors influencing customer satisfaction. However, after-sales service emerged as the most significant contributor to long-term customer loyalty.

In terms of product, customers expect inverters that perform reliably and efficiently. The company's ability to meet these expectations positively impacts customer satisfaction. Pricing strategies, such as offering value-based pricing, are crucial in ensuring customers perceive the product as worth the cost. The place, or distribution channels, must be optimized for timely delivery and easy access to the product, while promotion plays a vital role in educating customers about the product's value. However, none of these factors alone guarantees customer retention; it is the quality of after-sales service that can truly build lasting relationships with customers.

Vol. 13, Issue 1, pp: (175-182), Month: January - March 2025, Available at: www.researchpublish.com

The findings suggest that Electric Drive Co., Ltd. should continue focusing on improving product quality, enhancing aftersales support, and optimizing its pricing and distribution strategies. By doing so, the company can strengthen customer loyalty and secure a competitive edge in the market.

Overall, this study highlights the interconnected nature of the 4Ps and after-sales service in fostering positive customer experiences. Companies in similar industrial markets can benefit from adopting a customer-centric approach that goes beyond product offerings to include comprehensive, high-quality support.

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