



Defining the Persuables

Science based Segmentation for Effective Reputation Management

Reputation
 ˌrɛp.jʊˈteɪʃ(ə)n/

Noun

“The beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something;”

“The estimation in which a person or thing is held, especially by the community or the public generally;”

The widely held definitions of the word “reputation” point to the fact that reputation is all about ‘opinion’ or ‘estimation’ about someone or something by somebody.

As they say, “you can mean something to somebody but not everything to everybody”.

This hold true for corporations, institutions, political entities and even individuals.

Therefore, for the students and practitioners of reputation management, some of the questions then that need to be answered are:

1. Who is this somebody whose opinion matters to us?
2. What is the opinion or estimation that they really have?
3. What has led them to this opinion?
4. What would help strengthen/modify their opinion?

Hence, as a first step to devising an effective reputation management strategy, I would like to introduce an important concept:

“Defining The Persuables”, an approach which goes beyond the classical stakeholder segmentation.

What do I mean by this?

The answer itself comes from the definition of the word ‘**reputation**’. With the involvement of opinions and estimation of someone held by somebody, we can safely presume that **different constituencies** will have their **own interpretations** and opinions and estimations would be **divided**.

Stakeholders can be many and of different types for a company, employees and potentials, customers, partners, investors, etc. and for politicians, voters and influencers across demographics, it may be caste, faith, economic and social standing and so forth.

Is it sufficient to put labels to the stakeholders?

A good first step, but not enough, because, it only partly answers the question: **Who is this somebody, whose opinion matters to us?**

This is where science plays a pivotal role in **painting a picture of a person** instead of a mere label of, what I call, **“defining the audience.”**

Once we have a good definition in place, we need to take the next step, to understanding our audiences’ knowledge, believability and favourability, which in turn leads us to their current opinion/estimation and resultant, a new set of labels: **Advocate, Agnostic, Sceptic and Adversary** based on opinions/ estimations or simply what we call: **Base, Swing and Reach audiences**.

Integration of Segmentation Step 1 & 2 leads to a more focussed **reputation management strategy** which helps identify, the **advocates**, who spread the good work, the **adversaries**, who we need to engage and those **open to persuasion** to become our **supporters**.

“Defining the Perusable” is the Astrum approach, a holistic approach to identifying and engaging the specific and target audience, in the corporate environ or in politics and using **Science** to develop effective **reputation management strategies** is the Astrum way!

Our **4D approach** from **Discover to Deliver** puts science at the heart of creating persuasive communication and more effective reputation management campaigns.

I realise that perhaps I have only answered one of the several questions I posed earlier that needs to be answered. There will be more on those, in times to come, as we explore the subject of **science of reputation**.

This is not the future, this is the present, clients want these insights as it impacts the success of their business and **reputation management firms** would need to adopt this approach if they want a seat at the table in the board room.

Think it over and join the conversation.

About Ashwani

Ashwani Singla, Founding Managing Partner

His two decades of experience has seen him counsel and advise MNCs, Indian enterprises and the emerging Indian MNCs across a widerange of sectors. He has been a strategist for leading political parties in India and in the South-East Asia. He was the 'campaign strategist' for the BJP for the 2014 General Elections.



About Constellar

Constellar, the Astrum (www.astrum.in) blog is the new avatar of Ashwani's personal blog Reputare. While continuing to explore and prompt a dialogue on the subject of reputation in all the sphere, Constellar has an expanded scope to guest contributors and thought leaders. As the headline suggests, we will endeavor to bring insights and new thinking in the development of professional reputation management in India.