



when nothing goes right go left

once upon a time:

...but not too long ago hair conditioners did not exist as a discernible category. indian woman had happily adopted the shampoo and was content to end her hair wash regimen with it.

there was a point of dissatisfaction though. a point that stayed dormant until livon brought it top of mind. the shampoo left her hair dry and tangled.

livon occupies no man's land:

livon created a unique space for itself: post-shampoo application. it did so by flanking the latent problem to surface on two levels:

- shampoos leave hair dry and tangled. livon serum detangles hair.
- force-combing the tangled hair can lead to hair loss. livon serum detangles hair and thus prevents hair loss.

livon arguably launched the category of serums in india and unarguably built it. the category grew from almost nil to 55 crores in 10 years.



contenders came:

marico launched its serum brand silk n shine and pantene came in with its brand extension. lakme followed. and there were others. but livon maintained a market share of over 60%. but while it won the battles it was beginning to lose the war.

shampoo brands rev up conditioners:

the very raison d'être of livon came under attack as the international trend of using conditioners after shampoo hit the indian consumer. global brands came in with the knowledge that consumer tends to adopt the same brand of shampoo and conditioner. translation: losing the market for conditioner could lead to losing the market for shampoo.

soon, conditioners were promising all that a serum could with an ad spend over 10 times the serum category. and by 2010 the hair conditioner market, the absence of which created livon's reason-why, was over 3.5 times the size of entire serum category. as the typical livon user started to use conditioner after shampoo she found no reason to use a serum in addition.

livon uses every weapon in its armory:

the brand attempted a serious focus on hair loss. it then repositioned itself as a beauty serum. it tried to carve new niches (serum for colored hair, for e.g.).

it even tried to join them – livon hair conditioner was launched with a multimedia campaign. the brand started to stagnate and decline.

enter cut the crap:

when the challenge to revive livon was thrown open to ctc the team asked itself a basic question -

- what's the key difference between a conditioner and a serum?
- and the answer was: hair wash. unlike conditioners, you didn't need a hair wash to use livon serum.

insight is brahmastra:

insight is the known unthought, never the unknown.

indian woman does not wash her hair every day. research pegged the frequency at just above 2 times a week.

why not change the battle ground. why not get to where no conditioner could ever reach. why not reorient instead of merely reposition.

go fast but check first:

team ctc found a unique way to check its hypothesis- it selected respondents from its facebook contacts. the social bond got them talking and sharing. the effort paid off as ctc got a priceless nugget that showed they were on the right track:

the bad hair days invariably were non-hair wash days.

and ctc stood livon's raison d'être on its head:

it took the brand from after-hair-wash to when- you- don't- wash- your- hair.