

Research Article

AI in Recruitment: Enhancing HRM Practices from Corporate Sectors to Agribusiness and Allied Industries

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Received: 28/02/2025;

Revision: 20/03/2025;

Accepted: 08/04/2025;

Published: 25/04/2025

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Abstract: This study explores the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Human Resource Management (HRM), with a particular focus on recruitment processes across both traditional corporate settings and niche industries such as agribusiness and allied fields. As organizations increasingly adopt AI for job advertisements, candidate searches, and talent acquisition, AI-driven tools powered by advanced algorithms are enhancing the precision of recruitment, streamlining candidate screening, and optimizing selection procedures. The paper examines the substantial benefits of AI, such as improving efficiency and reducing biases, while also addressing key ethical concerns related to data transparency, algorithmic discrimination, and the reliability of AI-driven decisions. Drawing on scholarly literature, the study provides an in-depth understanding of AI's impact on recruitment practices, emphasizing its potential to improve candidate sourcing, reduce hiring time, and refine decision-making. It also considers the unique implications of AI in industries like agribusiness and allied fields, where sector-specific challenges and opportunities emerge. Furthermore, the research investigates the perspectives of recruiters and candidates, assessing whether AI can effectively mitigate bias, promote diversity, and enhance the hiring experience. The study also evaluates the limitations of current AI models and proposes frameworks to ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical decision-making in AI-assisted recruitment. Ultimately, the paper contributes to the ongoing dialogue on the future of AI in HRM, stressing the importance of balancing AI's capabilities with ethical integrity and fairness in its application across various industries, including specialized sectors like agribusiness.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, job advertisement, recruitment, Human resource management, natural language processing, Agribusiness

INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the job market, transforming the way businesses manage key recruitment processes, such as job advertisement, candidate search, and talent acquisition (Alsaif & Aksoy, 2023; Mer, 2023). In the past two years, AI has played an increasingly prominent role in streamlining these activities and enhancing efficiency through the automation of routine and repetitive tasks (Chukwuka & Dibie, 2024). AI applications in hiring, including candidate outreach, job matching, and resume screening, significantly reduce the time and manpower required for the recruitment process. This study further explores the application of AI in the labor market, shedding light on its benefits and challenges as it continues to evolve.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to understanding how AI technologies fundamentally alter recruitment practices and its broader implications for human resource management (HRM). By examining the intersection of AI and HRM, this study aimed to identify the potential benefits and pitfalls of AI integration, thus providing valuable insights for organizations navigating this evolving landscape. Furthermore, while the existing

literature has examined various aspects of AI in recruitment, a theoretical gap persists regarding ethical implications and the need for frameworks that ensure transparency and fairness. This study addresses this gap by exploring existing HR theories, such as Human Capital Theory and Social Exchange Theory, while proposing new frameworks that can guide ethical AI implementation in recruitment.

One of the most significant advantages of AI in recruitment is its ability to deliver precision targeting, ensuring that job advertisements reach a suitable audience and reduce advertising costs. AI algorithms analyze data to improve post-engagement and, as a result, improve recruitment outcomes. Moreover, AI-driven tools allow recruiters to process vast datasets and identify qualified candidates more efficiently than traditional methods do. Consequently, the recruitment cycle becomes data-driven, helping companies make better-informed decisions based on relevant metrics and indicators, ultimately contributing to the effectiveness of hiring practices (Basu et al., 2023; Budhwar et al., 2022). Artificial Intelligence (AI) has found its way into niche industries like agribusiness, transforming not just operations but also the way human resources are managed.

In an industry where workforce efficiency and adaptability directly impact productivity, AI is increasingly being leveraged for HRM functions such as recruitment, employee engagement, and workforce optimization. Companies like **Dehaat**, **Garuda Aerospace**, and **Godrej Agrovet** exemplify how AI integration in HR processes can address unique challenges in agribusiness. These organizations utilize AI to streamline recruitment by automating candidate sourcing, skill matching, and resume screening, ensuring the right talent is identified swiftly and efficiently. By analyzing workforce data, AI-driven tools also help optimize team performance, reduce hiring time, and improve retention strategies, critical factors for maintaining competitiveness in this sector.

For instance, **Dehaat** employs AI not only to scale its agricultural services but also to ensure that its HR processes align with its mission of empowering farmers. AI-powered platforms help Dehaat match candidates with roles that best suit their skills and aspirations, fostering a motivated and effective workforce. Similarly, **Garuda Aerospace**, a pioneer in drone-based solutions, uses AI for workforce planning and training, ensuring employees stay aligned with technological advancements. **Godrej Agrovet**, a major player in agribusiness, employs AI to predict workforce needs based on seasonal demand, improving hiring and operational efficiency. These examples demonstrate how AI is becoming a blended part of HRM in agribusiness, helping organizations in this niche not only meet their immediate staffing needs but also build a resilient, future-ready workforce.

However, despite its undeniable advantages, the use of AI for hiring poses certain challenges. One prominent concern is the risk of algorithmic bias, where AI systems may inadvertently favor certain demographics over others owing to biases inherent in the training data (Binns, 2018). If unchecked, these biases may perpetuate existing inequalities within the job market, potentially limiting opportunities for under-represented groups. Such concerns underline the importance of designing AI systems that are both ethical and transparent in their decision-making processes, thereby safeguarding fairness and equity in hiring practices (Kaplan and Haenlein 2019).

Finally, while AI-driven recruitment tools offer speed and scalability, they may lack the nuanced understanding and human empathy needed to assess complex interpersonal qualities such as cultural fit and soft skills, which are crucial for many roles. Excessive reliance on automation can depersonalize the hiring process, making it feel impersonal and alienating to candidates. Therefore, while AI can enhance efficiency and accuracy in recruitment, organizations must balance its use with human oversight to preserve the essential elements of human interaction in hiring and ensure an equitable, inclusive process (Prikshat et al., 2023).

Despite these advancements, a crucial theoretical gap remains regarding the ethical implications of AI integration in recruitment. Existing literature often overlooks the need for comprehensive frameworks that ensure transparency,

accountability, and fairness in AI-driven hiring practices. This study seeks to fill this gap by proposing a structured approach that aligns AI recruitment practices with ethical standards and existing HR theories, thereby promoting a more equitable and inclusive recruitment process.

DISCUSSION

Understanding AI in HRM from Theoretical Lens

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in Human Resource Management (HRM) has brought about transformative changes, particularly in recruitment. AI systems enable organizations to streamline talent acquisition by automating repetitive tasks and enhancing decision-making processes using data-driven insights. By leveraging advanced technologies, such as natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning algorithms, AI allows HR professionals to target, screen, and assess candidates efficiently, thus optimizing recruitment timelines and resource allocation. This discussion delves into the benefits, challenges, ethical considerations, and theoretical frameworks surrounding AI-driven recruitment while also exploring the future direction of AI in HRM.

Understanding the benefits of AI-assisted recruitment requires an examination of how AI supports core HR theory. The application of AI aligns well with Human Capital Theory, which posits that employees' skills, knowledge, and experience are key organizational assets that contribute to competitive advantage (Becker, 1964). AI's capability to evaluate large volumes of candidate data, considering skills, experience, and career trajectory, enhances the HRM team's ability to identify high-potential candidates. The resource-based View (RBV), which focuses on the competitive advantage that unique resources provide, further supports the value of AI in recruitment by positioning it as a strategic resource (Barney 1991). AI-powered recruitment systems add a unique edge by efficiently sourcing and assessing top talent, increasing the organization's appeal in competitive labor markets, and bolstering employer branding (Marler & Boudreau, 2017). The Transaction Cost Theory emphasizes cost reduction, making AI automation a natural fit. By minimizing the time and expenses associated with manual screening, scheduling, and communication, AI-assisted recruitment reduces transaction costs and enables HR departments to allocate resources to strategic functions (Williamson 1975). Social Exchange Theory, which considers the reciprocal interactions between employers and candidates, is also relevant here. AI's ability to provide timely responses and feedback creates a positive candidate experience, fostering mutual respect and goodwill (Bussin & van Rooyen, 2018). AI's application of AI in recruitment enhances not only operational efficiency, but also builds a constructive, engaging relationship between organizations and prospective employees.

In the realm of AI-assisted recruitment, two pivotal theories—Language Expectancy Theory (LET) and Media Richness Theory (MRT)—offer valuable insights into the role of natural language processing (NLP) in enhancing communication between organizations and candidates. LET posits that the way language is perceived significantly

affects the reception of messages, highlighting the necessity for AI tools to tailor communication to meet candidates' expectations. Through the use of NLP, AI systems can refine job postings, email communications, and interview invitations, ensuring that language and tone are personalized and appropriate for diverse candidates. By fostering contextually relevant interactions, NLP enhances candidate engagement and builds a stronger connection between candidates and organizations, aligning well with LET's emphasis on effective communication to positively influence perceptions (see *Figure 1*).

Recent research has substantiated the application of LET in AI recruitment. For instance, Weibel et al. (2022) illustrated how NLP tools can adjust language based on individual candidate profiles, significantly enhancing engagement by aligning communication with candidates' expectations. Similarly, Johnson et al. (2021) found that AI-powered chatbots equipped with NLP capabilities deliver context-appropriate responses that foster positive interactions and create a personalized candidate experience. These studies demonstrate how leveraging NLP can facilitate tailored communication, which is critical for enhancing engagement and candidate satisfaction throughout the recruitment process.

Complementing LET, Media Richness Theory emphasizes the importance of using appropriate communication channels for handling complex information effectively. According to MRT, richer media that provide immediate feedback and convey contextual cues are more suited to complex tasks. In recruitment, NLP-driven chatbots and AI communication platforms exemplify richer media by enabling interactive exchanges with candidates and addressing initial inquiries, pre-screening, and scheduling efficiently. Studies by Lee and Hahn (2023) and Williams and Du (2021) further confirm that NLP significantly enhances media richness in recruitment, improving clarity and responsiveness. Together, LET and MRT underscore NLP's crucial role in AI-assisted recruitment, enhancing communication quality and contributing to more effective human resource management practices.

Benefits of AI-Assisted HRM

AI-driven recruitment systems have revolutionized the early stages of the recruitment process, particularly in the areas of job advertisement and candidate targeting. Through targeted advertisement platforms such as LinkedIn and Google Ads, AI can identify and reach potential candidates more effectively than traditional methods. These AI-powered advertisements are personalized, reaching specific demographics based on industry, experience level, and geographic location, thereby improving reach and engagement, while lowering recruitment costs (Upadhyay & Khandelwal, 2018). Additionally, resume screening tools that use NLP algorithms expedite candidate assessments by scanning resumes for relevant skills, keywords, and qualifications, thus saving time for HR professionals (Oberst et al., 2018). These applications enhance productivity, as recruiters can

focus on assessing the top candidates that meet the predefined criteria.

Predictive analytics capabilities in AI-driven recruitment systems are particularly valuable for assessing candidate potential and cultural fit. Through data analysis, AI can predict which candidates are likely to succeed within an organization based on their career trajectories, behavioral assessments, and alignment with the organization's values. This predictive approach reduces employee turnover by facilitating better hiring decisions, which ultimately reduces the costs associated with rehabilitation and training (Bodó et al., 2017). AI's role in predictive analytics aligns with the goals of Human Capital Theory, as it helps HR departments invest in candidates who contribute long-term value to the organization.

One of the prominent benefits of AI in recruitment is the reduction in human bias in hiring decisions. Traditional recruitment processes often include subconscious biases that can affect the selection process, leading to discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, or age. AI-driven recruitment systems aim to counter these biases by applying standardized criteria to all candidates, thus fostering a fairer and more inclusive hiring process (Raghavan et al., 2020). By improving diversity and inclusion, AI strengthens an organization's culture and contributes to an environment in which diverse perspectives and experiences are valued. This approach not only aligns with modern workplace values but also enhances the organization's appeal among diverse candidate pools (refer *Figure 1*).

Cost savings is another critical advantage of AI-assisted recruitment. Automation reduces the need for extensive human involvement in repetitive tasks, such as resume screening, initial candidate outreach, and interview scheduling, thus lowering recruitment costs. By automating these tasks, organizations can redirect HR resources to higher-level functions such as strategic planning, employee engagement, and talent retention (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2019). This reallocation of resources aligns with the Transaction Cost Theory, which highlights cost efficiency as a primary goal of organizational strategies. AI's capacity to manage and streamline operations at reduced costs is especially advantageous for large organizations with high recruitment demands (refer *Figure 1*).

Candidate experience is an essential aspect of modern recruitment, and AI enhances this experience through personalized, real-time communication. AI chatbots and automated email responses provide candidates with prompt feedback and updates throughout the recruitment process, creating a seamless experience that positively reflects the employer's brand (Guenole and Feinzig 2019). This improved communication aligns with the Social Exchange Theory, as it builds trust and engagement between candidates and employers. A positive candidate experience also increases the likelihood of candidates accepting job offers, further supporting the organization's recruitment goals and strengthening employer branding (refer *Figure 1*).

Figure 1: Benefits of AI-Assisted HRM



Benefits of AI in HRM for Agribusiness and Niche Fields

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized Human Resource Management (HRM) by automating and enhancing processes, enabling precision and efficiency. In agribusiness, AI tools streamline recruitment, workforce planning, and performance management, allowing companies to respond effectively to the dynamic demands of agriculture. For example, **Dehaat**, a leading agri-tech platform in India, employs AI to match job roles with candidates’ skill sets and predict labor needs based on seasonal agricultural trends. Similarly, **Godrej Agrovet** uses AI-driven analytics to optimize workforce allocation during peak harvesting and production periods, minimizing downtime and enhancing productivity.

AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants are increasingly utilized to improve candidate engagement. Studies indicate that such tools reduce candidate drop-off rates during recruitment by up to 20% (*Deloitte, 2024*). Companies like **Garuda Aerospace**, a pioneer in drone-based agritech solutions, use AI for workforce optimization, ensuring employees are trained and equipped to handle advanced technologies like autonomous drones. AI also enhances employee retention by analyzing job satisfaction metrics and predicting turnover risks, enabling proactive engagement strategies. According to a report by *PwC (2023)*, companies that integrated AI into HRM experienced a 25% reduction in recruitment costs and a 30% faster hiring cycle. These benefits highlight AI’s role in creating a data-driven, responsive HR ecosystem crucial for agribusiness’s seasonal and resource-intensive operations.

Challenges of AI-Assisted HRM

Despite the numerous benefits of AI in terms of recruitment, challenges and ethical concerns must be addressed. Bias and discrimination remain significant issues, as AI systems trained on historical data can inadvertently perpetuate existing biases. For instance, if past hiring data favored specific demographics, AI algorithms could replicate these patterns, resulting in biased outcomes (Binns, 2018). Addressing these biases requires continuous monitoring, model adjustments, and transparency to ensure ethical recruitment. Transparency in AI-driven recruitment processes is essential for building trust. Candidates may not fully understand how AI-based decisions are made, creating a ‘black box’ effect that can lead to misunderstandings and distrust (Dastin, 2018). To maintain fairness and accountability, organizations must implement clear guidelines and explanations for AI-driven recruitment decisions, aligned with legal frameworks such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidelines (Raghavan et al., 2020).

Data privacy is another critical ethical concern because AI systems process vast amounts of personal information. Ensuring compliance with data protection regulations and safeguarding candidate information is essential for preventing breaches and maintaining confidentiality. Regular audits and adherence to data security protocols are necessary to mitigate the risks associated with data privacy during AI-assisted recruitment (Oberst et al., 2018). Legal compliance is essential for organizations to avoid regulatory penalties and build a reputation for ethical and responsible AI use during recruitment (*refer Figure 2*).

Figure 2: Challenges of AI-Assisted HRM

inaccurate-predictions
job_displacement_fears integration_with_legacy_systems
resistance_to_change data_privacy_concerns
bias_in_algorithms complexity_in_customization
data_security_risks lack_of_trust_in_ai-decisions
high_implementation_costs
lack_of_ai_expertise over-reliance_on_technology
ethical_dilemmas_in_decision-making
difficulty_in_measuring_roi legal_and_compliance_challenges
continuous_maintenance_requirements

Challenges of AI in HRM for Agribusiness and Niche Fields

Despite its benefits, AI adoption in HRM within agribusiness and niche industries faces significant challenges. A critical issue is algorithmic bias, where AI systems trained on historical or incomplete datasets may inadvertently favor certain demographics. This is particularly concerning for rural-focused agribusinesses, where local labor markets often include diverse but underrepresented populations. For instance, algorithms may undervalue candidates from rural regions due to limited digital footprints, perpetuating inequities. As *Binns (2018)* observed, such biases stem from systemic flaws in training data and must be addressed through inclusive dataset curation and algorithm audits.

The Future of AI in Recruitment and HRM

AI's limitations in evaluating qualitative attributes, such as emotional intelligence, adaptability, and cultural fit, further complicate its application in HRM. These soft skills are critical in agribusiness, where community engagement and teamwork play vital roles. Over-reliance on AI can lead to depersonalized hiring, potentially alienating candidates and undermining the recruitment process's inclusivity. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in agribusiness, which form the backbone of the sector, often struggle with the high initial costs of AI implementation and a lack of technical expertise. According to *McKinsey & Company (2024)*, 60% of agricultural SMEs cite these barriers as significant hurdles. Companies like **Farmers Edge** in Canada and **CropIn** in India are attempting to bridge this gap by offering AI-driven HR solutions tailored to smaller operations. These challenges emphasize the need for ethical frameworks, robust training, and balanced human-AI collaboration to ensure fair and inclusive HR practices.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming Human Resource Management (HRM) by streamlining processes like recruitment, workforce planning, and employee engagement. Companies such as **IBM** and **Unilever** have successfully integrated AI to optimize their HR operations.

IBM's Watson analyzes job descriptions and candidate profiles to provide personalized hiring recommendations, while Unilever uses AI-powered video assessments to screen candidates globally, reducing hiring timelines by 75%. Similarly, **Siemens** employs predictive analytics to forecast talent needs and design tailored training programs. These examples highlight AI's potential to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and scalability in HR functions across industries.

In niche fields like agribusiness and allied sectors, AI adoption in HRM is gaining momentum. Companies such as **Dehaat**, **Garuda Aerospace**, and **Godrej Agrovet** are leveraging AI to address unique workforce challenges. For instance, Dehaat uses AI-driven platforms to manage large, distributed teams of agronomists and support seasonal labor demands. Garuda Aerospace employs AI tools to train employees in drone operations for precision agriculture, enabling them to adapt to cutting-edge technologies. Godrej Agrovet utilizes predictive analytics to align workforce allocation with agricultural cycles, ensuring peak efficiency during critical periods like sowing and harvesting. These advancements demonstrate how AI is redefining HRM in sectors where agility and operational efficiency are crucial.

Beyond agribusiness, other companies are integrating AI into HRM to tackle specialized challenges. **Amazon**, for instance, uses AI to manage large-scale workforce needs, particularly during peak seasons, by optimizing shift scheduling and recruitment processes. **Shell** leverages AI to identify niche skills for energy transition projects, while **PepsiCo** uses chatbots to enhance candidate engagement in high-volume hiring environments. **HireVue**, a recruitment technology company, provides AI tools to clients like Vodafone and Hilton, assessing candidates' cognitive abilities and personality traits through video interviews. These examples underscore the versatility of AI in addressing industry-specific HR needs.

However, the adoption of AI in HRM is not without

challenges. Algorithmic bias remains a significant concern, as AI systems trained on biased data can perpetuate inequalities, particularly in rural or underrepresented areas. For example, rural candidates in agribusiness may be disadvantaged due to limited digital footprints. Additionally, AI struggles to evaluate soft skills such as leadership potential, cultural fit, and emotional intelligence, which are critical for many roles. Over-reliance on automation may also depersonalize the hiring process, alienating candidates and potentially undermining organizational culture. Addressing these issues requires robust ethical frameworks, rigorous data validation, and ongoing human oversight.

The future of AI in HRM lies in enhancing collaboration between AI systems and human recruiters. Advancements in deep learning will enable AI to assess intangible qualities like emotional intelligence and cultural alignment, bridging current gaps in recruitment processes. Companies like **Deloitte** and **Farmers Edge** are already experimenting with such applications, using AI to predict employee retention risks and design personalized training programs. As these technologies evolve, the integration of AI with human insight will foster a hybrid HRM model that combines efficiency with empathy. This approach will not only optimize workforce management but also ensure inclusivity, fairness, and a more human-centric HRM landscape across industries, including niche fields like agribusiness.

CONCLUSION

The integration of Artificial Intelligence in Human Resource Management, particularly in recruitment, offers significant advantages in terms of efficiency, bias reduction, and optimized decision-making across various sectors, including niche industries like agribusiness. While AI holds the potential to revolutionize recruitment practices, it also raises important ethical considerations related to data transparency, algorithmic fairness, and decision reliability. This study highlights the need for a balanced approach, where AI's capabilities are leveraged responsibly, with frameworks in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. By addressing these challenges, organizations can fully harness the transformative power of AI while safeguarding fairness and ethical integrity in recruitment processes.

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