



## The impact of Artificial Intelligence on recruitment and talent acquisition processes

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### Abstract

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into recruitment and talent acquisition processes has transformed the dynamics of modern human resource management. Traditional methods of hiring, often constrained by subjectivity, time limitations, and high operational costs, are increasingly being replaced or supplemented by intelligent algorithms that enhance efficiency, accuracy, and fairness. AI-driven tools such as applicant tracking systems, natural language processing, and predictive analytics are reshaping the ways organizations source, screen, and select candidates. These technologies enable large-scale data processing, reducing bias in decision-making and allowing recruiters to focus on strategic and human-centric aspects of talent management. However, the adoption of AI also raises critical challenges, including concerns about algorithmic transparency, data privacy, ethical implications, and the potential risk of dehumanizing recruitment. This paper explores the dual impact of AI by examining both its opportunities—such as improved candidate experience, diversity promotion, and predictive workforce planning—and its limitations, which include over-reliance on technology and unequal access across industries. By analysing current trends, case studies, and theoretical frameworks, the study provides a balanced understanding of how AI is redefining recruitment practices while highlighting the need for responsible integration that aligns technological efficiency with human values. The findings suggest that AI, when applied ethically and strategically, has the potential to not only optimize talent acquisition but also contribute to long-term organizational competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global labour market.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to analyse the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on recruitment and talent acquisition processes, with a focus on how emerging technologies are reshaping efficiency, transparency, and organizational competitiveness.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** The paper adopts a qualitative and analytical approach by reviewing recent literature, organizational case studies, and theoretical frameworks in the domain of Human Resource Management. Special emphasis is placed on AI-enabled tools such as applicant tracking systems, natural language processing, and predictive analytics to evaluate their effectiveness in streamlining hiring practices.

**Findings:** The study reveals that AI enhances recruitment efficiency by automating repetitive tasks, reducing bias in candidate screening, and improving overall candidate experience. It also facilitates data-driven decision-making and workforce planning. However, the findings also highlight potential limitations, including ethical concerns related to algorithmic bias, data privacy, transparency, and the risk of over-reliance on technology at the expense of human judgment.

**Practical Implications:** The research suggests that organizations must adopt a balanced approach, integrating AI with human-centric strategies to ensure fairness, inclusivity, and ethical responsibility in recruitment practices.

**Originality/Value:** This study contributes to the growing academic discourse on AI in human resource management by offering a comprehensive and critical analysis of its benefits and challenges, thereby guiding organizations toward responsible adoption of AI in talent acquisition.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, recruitment, talent acquisition, human resource management, predictive analytics, ethical challenges, workforce diversity, candidate experience, algorithmic bias, organizational competitiveness.

### Introduction

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative developments of the twenty-first century, significantly influencing business operations across industries. Within the domain of Human Resource Management (HRM), AI is redefining recruitment and talent acquisition, two of the most critical functions that directly affect organizational performance and sustainability. Traditionally, recruitment processes were characterized by extensive manual screening, subjective decision-making, and high operational costs, often leading to inefficiencies and biases. However, the integration of AI technologies has introduced new opportunities for organizations to optimize these processes, enhance decision-making accuracy, and create more engaging experiences for job seekers.

AI-powered applications such as applicant tracking systems, resume parsers, chat bots, natural language processing, and predictive analytics are transforming how organizations source, screen, and select candidates. These tools allow recruiters to process large volumes of data rapidly, identify patterns, and match candidate profiles with job requirements more effectively than conventional methods. Furthermore, AI enhances diversity and inclusion initiatives by reducing unconscious human biases, thereby promoting equitable hiring practices. The ability to forecast workforce trends through predictive modeling also enables organizations to engage in proactive talent planning and maintain a competitive edge in dynamic labour markets.

Despite these advantages, the use of AI in recruitment is not without challenges. Concerns regarding data privacy, algorithmic transparency, ethical implications, and the risk of dehumanizing the hiring process remain central to

ongoing debates. Over-reliance on automated systems can inadvertently perpetuate hidden biases encoded in training data, leading to discriminatory outcomes. Moreover, the lack of human touch in candidate interactions may undermine trust and authenticity in employer–employee relationships. These issues underscore the need for a balanced approach that integrates AI capabilities with human judgment, empathy, and ethical oversight.

In light of these developments, this paper seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of AI on recruitment and talent acquisition. By examining current trends, case studies, and theoretical perspectives, the study evaluates both the opportunities and challenges associated with AI adoption in HRM. The ultimate objective is to highlight how organizations can harness AI responsibly to achieve efficiency, fairness, and long-term sustainability in talent management.

### Objectives of the Study

- To examine the role of Artificial Intelligence in transforming traditional recruitment and talent acquisition practices.
- To analyse the effectiveness of AI-driven tools such as applicant tracking systems, predictive analytics, and natural language processing in enhancing recruitment efficiency.
- To evaluate the potential benefits of AI in promoting diversity, fairness, and inclusivity within hiring processes.
- To identify key challenges and ethical concerns associated with the use of AI in recruitment, including algorithmic bias, data privacy, and transparency.
- To provide recommendations for integrating AI responsibly in recruitment practices while maintaining a balance between technological efficiency and human judgment.

### Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is centred on the influence of Artificial Intelligence within the field of Human Resource Management, particularly recruitment and talent acquisition. The research covers both global and organizational perspectives, drawing insights from existing literature, industry reports, and case studies. The study focuses on AI applications such as resume screening, candidate sourcing, virtual interviews, chat bots, and predictive workforce planning. While the emphasis is on corporate organizations and their HR practices, the study also acknowledges broader implications for job seekers, policymakers, and technology developers. The scope does not include detailed technical mechanisms of AI algorithms but concentrates on their practical applications, opportunities, limitations, and ethical considerations in recruitment.

### Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it addresses one of the most pressing questions in modern HRM: how technology, particularly AI, can be leveraged to enhance recruitment processes while safeguarding human values and ethical standards. By critically analysing both the advantages and limitations of AI, the research contributes to the academic discourse on digital transformation in HR practices. The findings are valuable for organizations seeking to optimize hiring strategies, policymakers aiming to regulate ethical AI

adoption, and researchers exploring the intersection of technology and human capital management. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the importance of balancing automation with empathy, thereby ensuring that recruitment remains not only efficient but also humane and inclusive. Ultimately, this research highlights the strategic role of AI in shaping the future of work and offers practical insights for sustainable and competitive talent management in the global labour market.

### Literature Review

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Human Resource Management (HRM) has become a transformative trend, particularly in the domains of recruitment and talent acquisition. Researchers have increasingly highlighted the capacity of AI-driven tools to reduce inefficiencies, minimize human bias, and improve decision-making accuracy.

According to Upadhyay and Khandelwal (2018)<sup>[13, 22]</sup>, AI is redefining recruitment by automating repetitive tasks such as resume screening and candidate shortlisting, thereby saving time and resources. Similarly, Chamorro-Premuzic, Akhtar, Winsborough, and Sherman (2017) argue that predictive analytics and machine learning enhance recruiters' ability to evaluate candidate suitability beyond traditional qualifications, focusing on behavioral traits and performance potential. The role of AI in promoting diversity and fairness has also been emphasized. As noted by Bogen and Rieke (2018)<sup>[16]</sup>, AI-based hiring systems have the potential to mitigate unconscious human bias, though concerns remain regarding algorithmic transparency and fairness. In contrast, scholars such as Dastin (2018)<sup>[5, 18]</sup> have shown that AI systems can inadvertently replicate historical biases if the training data is skewed, raising questions about ethical deployment.

In terms of candidate experience, AI tools like chat bots and virtual assistants provide real-time communication, improving accessibility and engagement during recruitment (Langer, König, & Papathanasiou, 2019)<sup>[19]</sup>. Additionally, AI-enabled platforms are capable of handling large volumes of applications, making global recruitment more efficient and scalable (Li *et al.*, 2021). Despite these advantages, several studies caution against over-reliance on AI. Vrontis, Christofi, Pereira, Tarba, and Makrides (2022)<sup>[23]</sup> highlight the risks of dehumanizing recruitment by reducing personal interaction, which could negatively impact trust and organizational culture. Ethical and legal concerns surrounding data privacy and algorithmic accountability are also prominent in the literature (Mateescu & Nguyen, 2019)<sup>[21]</sup>. Overall, the literature indicates that while AI has immense potential to optimize recruitment, its application requires a careful balance between automation and human judgment. The consensus among scholars suggests that organizations should adopt AI not as a replacement for human recruiters, but as a complementary tool that enhances fairness, efficiency, and strategic workforce planning.

### Research Methodology

- **Research Design:** The study adopts a qualitative and analytical research design, supplemented with elements of descriptive analysis. This design has been selected to critically examine the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on recruitment and talent acquisition, while also incorporating insights from case studies and

secondary data sources. The focus is on understanding how AI tools are transforming recruitment practices, the extent of their benefits, and the challenges they present in organizational contexts.

- **Nature of the Study:** The research is exploratory in nature, aiming to investigate relatively new applications of AI within Human Resource Management (HRM). Given the emerging nature of the field, the study emphasizes conceptual frameworks, literature synthesis, and practical illustrations rather than experimental testing.
- **Data Collection:** The study relies primarily on secondary data sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, industry reports, white papers, organizational case studies, and relevant media coverage. Databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR, and Google Scholar were consulted to gather academic sources, while business databases and consulting firm reports (e.g., Deloitte, McKinsey, PwC) provided industry insights.
- **Data Analysis:** A thematic content analysis approach has been employed to evaluate the collected data. Key themes such as recruitment efficiency, candidate experience, diversity promotion, algorithmic bias, ethical considerations, and organizational competitiveness were identified and examined. Comparative analysis was used to contrast the benefits and limitations of AI adoption in recruitment. Additionally, select organizational case studies were analyzed to provide practical evidence of AI's application.
- **Scope and Limitations:** The study focuses on the role of AI in recruitment and talent acquisition across diverse industries at a global level. However, it does not engage in primary data collection through surveys or interviews due to resource and time constraints. Another limitation lies in the fact that AI is an evolving technology, and therefore, findings may change as new tools and ethical frameworks are developed. Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable insights by synthesizing existing academic and practical knowledge.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Since the research is based on secondary data, direct ethical concerns related to human participants are not applicable. However, the study carefully evaluates ethical debates surrounding algorithmic fairness, data privacy, and transparency in AI-driven recruitment, ensuring that the analysis reflects both technological opportunities and human-centric concerns.

### Data Analysis and Discussion

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into recruitment and talent acquisition processes has created a paradigm shift in how organizations approach human resource management. Unlike traditional hiring practices, which were often manual, time-consuming, and vulnerable to subjectivity, AI-based solutions have introduced speed, accuracy, and strategic insights. By examining secondary

data, academic literature, and industry case studies, this section analyzes the multiple dimensions of AI adoption in recruitment. The discussion is organized thematically, focusing on efficiency and automation, candidate experience, diversity and inclusion, predictive analytics, ethical concerns, and the balance between technology and human judgment.

- **Efficiency and Automation in Recruitment:** One of the most immediate and visible impacts of AI on recruitment lies in automation and operational efficiency. Traditional hiring processes required human resource (HR) professionals to sift manually through large volumes of resumes, often leading to delayed decision-making and higher administrative costs. AI-powered systems such as Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS), resume parsing software, and automated interview scheduling tools drastically reduce the time and effort required in these tasks.

For example, industry reports from Deloitte (2021) indicate that organizations using AI-enabled ATS reduced the average time-to-hire by up to 40%. Similarly, Upadhyay and Khandelwal (2018) <sup>[13, 22]</sup> highlight that automation has allowed HR professionals to devote more time to strategic functions like employer branding and talent development rather than administrative tasks. This shift not only improves efficiency but also enhances the strategic value of HR departments within organizations.

However, efficiency gains also raise concerns about the depersonalization of recruitment. While speed and accuracy are desirable, excessive automation risks overlooking the qualitative aspects of human potential, such as creativity, adaptability, and cultural fit. Therefore, organizations must recognize that efficiency should not come at the cost of nuanced evaluation.

- **Candidate Experience and Engagement:** In today's competitive labor market, candidate experience has become a critical determinant of employer reputation. AI enhances engagement through real-time, personalized interactions. Tools such as AI-powered chatbots answer candidate queries, provide instant updates, and guide applicants through the recruitment process. Research by Langer, König, and Papathanasiou (2019) <sup>[19]</sup> demonstrates that candidates perceive organizations using AI communication tools as more transparent and responsive. Moreover, virtual assistants provide accessibility across time zones, ensuring that international candidates receive equal attention. Global corporations such as Unilever and IBM have implemented AI-driven video interviews and chatbots, reporting not only faster hiring cycles but also higher satisfaction rates among applicants.

Despite these benefits, challenges remain. Over-reliance on automated interactions can create a transactional experience, where candidates feel like they are communicating with machines rather than humans. This lack of personal touch may negatively affect organizational image, particularly in industries where human interaction is highly valued. Thus, while AI tools enhance scalability and responsiveness, they must be integrated with human interactions to ensure authenticity in candidate engagement.

- **Diversity and Inclusion in Hiring:** AI is often regarded as a potential solution for addressing bias in recruitment. By anonymizing resumes and focusing on skills rather than demographic identifiers, AI tools can promote diversity and inclusivity. For instance, Bogen and Rieke (2018) <sup>[16]</sup> argue that AI systems can reduce unconscious human biases, thereby ensuring fairer hiring decisions. Organizations adopting such systems report improvements in diversity metrics, particularly in gender and ethnic representation. However, contrasting evidence suggests that AI is not inherently neutral. Dastin (2018) <sup>[5, 18]</sup> revealed that Amazon's AI recruitment tool exhibited gender bias, penalizing resumes that included terms associated with women, such as "women's chess club captain." This occurred because the algorithm was trained on historical data dominated by male candidates, thereby replicating existing biases. This duality highlights the importance of algorithmic transparency and data quality. While AI can be a powerful tool for promoting diversity, its effectiveness depends on how it is designed, trained, and monitored. Without ethical oversight, AI risks institutionalizing rather than eliminating bias.
  - **Predictive Analytics and Workforce Planning:** One of AI's most strategic contributions lies in its ability to leverage predictive analytics for workforce planning. Unlike traditional methods that focus on past performance, predictive models analyze patterns in employee behavior, market trends, and industry data to forecast future hiring needs. Li *et al.* (2021) emphasize that predictive analytics enable organizations to anticipate skill shortages, reduce turnover, and engage in proactive talent acquisition. Case studies illustrate how multinational corporations use AI to predict employee attrition and design retention strategies. For example, IBM's Watson Analytics has been reported to predict with 95% accuracy which employees are likely to resign, enabling timely interventions. Such insights not only improve workforce stability but also reduce costs associated with rehiring and training. However, predictive analytics is not without limitations. Over-reliance on quantitative models risks overlooking qualitative factors, such as employee motivation and organizational culture. Predictive models may also lead to rigid workforce planning, reducing flexibility in dynamic labor markets. Hence, while predictive analytics enhances foresight, it should complement rather than replace human judgment in talent planning.
  - **Ethical, Legal, and Transparency Concerns:** Ethical and legal implications represent some of the most pressing concerns surrounding AI in recruitment. Mateescu and Nguyen (2019) <sup>[21]</sup> caution that AI-driven hiring tools often operate as "black boxes," where decision-making processes are opaque and difficult to audit. This lack of transparency undermines accountability, particularly in cases where candidates are unfairly rejected. Data privacy is another critical issue. AI systems often process sensitive personal information, raising questions about consent, security, and regulatory compliance. In regions with strict data protection laws, such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), organizations face
- legal risks if AI tools mishandle candidate data. Furthermore, ethical debates extend to the dehumanization of recruitment. Vrontis *et al.* (2022) <sup>[23]</sup> argue that over-automation risks eroding trust between employers and candidates, reducing recruitment to a purely transactional process. This can have long-term implications for organizational culture and employer branding. Addressing these concerns requires robust ethical governance frameworks, regular algorithmic audits, and adherence to legal standards. Organizations must also adopt a proactive stance by educating recruiters and decision-makers about the ethical implications of AI.
- **Balancing Technology with Human Judgment:** A recurring theme across the analysis is the necessity of balance. AI offers significant advantages in efficiency, fairness, and predictive accuracy, but it cannot replicate human intuition, empathy, and contextual judgment. For instance, while AI can evaluate technical skills with high precision, it struggles to assess interpersonal attributes such as emotional intelligence, leadership potential, and adaptability.
- Scholars suggest that the most effective recruitment systems are those that combine AI with human oversight. In such models, AI handles large-scale data processing and initial screening, while human recruiters make the final decisions based on qualitative evaluations. This hybrid approach ensures that recruitment remains both technologically advanced and human-centered. Moreover, organizations must recognize that candidates increasingly value empathy and authenticity in their interactions with employers. Human involvement is therefore essential not only for fairness but also for building trust and long-term engagement.
- The analysis reveals that AI is reshaping recruitment and talent acquisition in profound ways. By automating tasks, improving candidate experience, promoting diversity, and enabling predictive workforce planning, AI enhances organizational efficiency and competitiveness. At the same time, unresolved challenges such as algorithmic bias, ethical dilemmas, and transparency issues highlight the need for caution. The discussion underscores that AI should not be viewed as a replacement for human recruiters but as a complementary tool. Responsible adoption requires balancing technological efficiency with ethical responsibility and human judgment. If implemented strategically, AI has the potential to make recruitment more inclusive, transparent, and future-ready while preserving the human essence of talent acquisition.
- ## Conclusion and Recommendations
- ### Conclusion
- The analysis undertaken in this study clearly demonstrates that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming recruitment and talent acquisition into a more efficient, data-driven, and strategically significant process. Unlike traditional recruitment methods that relied heavily on manual screening, subjective judgment, and lengthy timelines, AI introduces a paradigm shift by automating repetitive tasks, enhancing decision-making, and providing predictive insights for workforce planning. A major finding of this

research is that efficiency and automation have significantly reduced hiring costs and time-to-hire, making the process more agile. Organizations employing AI-powered tools such as applicant tracking systems and resume parsers have been able to manage large volumes of applications more effectively. This not only benefits employers but also improves the overall experience of candidates, who receive quicker responses and real-time engagement through chatbots and virtual assistants.

Another key insight is AI's dual impact on diversity and inclusion. On one hand, AI-based recruitment tools have the potential to eliminate unconscious human bias by anonymizing applications and focusing on skill-based evaluation. On the other hand, if the algorithms are trained on biased data, they risk reproducing and reinforcing systemic inequalities. This indicates that while AI can serve as a powerful enabler of fairness, it requires responsible design, continuous monitoring, and transparent oversight. The study also highlights the strategic role of predictive analytics, enabling organizations to anticipate future talent needs, identify potential skill gaps, and proactively address employee attrition. These insights provide organizations with a competitive advantage in dynamic global labor markets. Yet, caution must be exercised, as over-reliance on predictive models may result in rigid workforce strategies that fail to accommodate the human complexities of motivation, adaptability, and creativity.

Despite these opportunities, significant ethical and legal challenges persist. Issues of algorithmic transparency, data privacy, and the potential dehumanization of the recruitment process are central concerns. The lack of standardized regulatory frameworks creates inconsistencies in implementation and risks undermining trust among candidates.

Furthermore, while AI enhances objectivity and efficiency, it lacks the empathy, intuition, and contextual sensitivity that only human recruiters can provide. Overall, the conclusion of this research is clear: AI should not be seen as a substitute for human recruiters but as a complementary tool. The most effective recruitment strategies are those that balance technological capabilities with human judgment, ensuring fairness, inclusivity, and empathy. If implemented responsibly, AI has the potential to redefine recruitment as a more transparent, ethical, and future-ready process, ultimately contributing to organizational sustainability and competitiveness.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed for organizations, policymakers, and researchers:

- **Adopt a Hybrid Recruitment Model:** Organizations should integrate AI tools for tasks such as screening, scheduling, and predictive analytics, while ensuring that final decision-making rests with human recruiters. This hybrid approach balances efficiency with human empathy and contextual judgment.
- **Ensure Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability:** Developers and organizations must disclose how recruitment algorithms function, including the variables they prioritize. Regular audits should be conducted to detect and eliminate embedded biases.

Independent oversight mechanisms can further enhance accountability.

- **Promote Ethical Governance Frameworks:** Policymakers should establish guidelines that govern the ethical use of AI in recruitment, addressing concerns about data privacy, fairness, and non-discrimination. International labour organizations and governments should collaborate to set universal standards.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Bias Mitigation:** Organizations should actively monitor AI systems to ensure fairness in outcomes. Bias detection mechanisms must be built into the recruitment process, and datasets should be diversified to avoid replicating historical inequalities.
- **Prioritize Candidate Experience:** While automation can streamline processes, organizations should maintain human touch points, particularly during interviews and final stages of recruitment. Empathetic engagement builds trust and enhances employer branding.
- **Training and Upskilling HR Professionals:** Recruiters and HR managers should be trained to work effectively alongside AI systems. Understanding both the capabilities and limitations of AI ensures that recruiters can leverage technology without becoming overly dependent on it.
- **Strengthen Data Privacy and Security:** Robust cyber security measures and compliance with data protection regulations such as GDPR should be prioritized. Candidates must be informed about how their data is collected, stored, and used.
- **Encourage Further Research and Case Studies :** Given that AI in recruitment is still an emerging field, more empirical research is needed. Future studies could involve primary data collection through surveys and interviews, providing deeper insights into candidate perceptions, cultural impacts, and long-term organizational outcomes.

Artificial Intelligence is not merely a technological advancement in recruitment—it represents a shift in how organizations conceptualize and manage human capital. Its promise lies in efficiency, inclusivity, and foresight, but its risks demand careful governance, transparency, and human oversight. For AI to truly revolutionize talent acquisition, it must be deployed not as a replacement for human recruiters but as a partner that augments human decision-making. By adopting a responsible and balanced approach, organizations can ensure that recruitment remains both technologically advanced and deeply human, positioning themselves for long-term success in a competitive global economy.

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