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## Decoding HR Decisions: The Role of Explainable AI in Promoting Transparency

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### ABSTRACT

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Human Resource (HR) processes—from recruitment and screening to performance evaluation and promotion promises efficiency and data-driven insights. However, the adoption of complex, 'black-box' AI models poses a significant challenge to accountability, fairness, and trust within organizations. When HR decisions cannot be easily interpreted or justified, they risk perpetuating bias, eroding employee trust, and exposing the organization to legal and ethical scrutiny. This paper demonstrates how Explainable AI (XAI) can not only enhance operational efficiency but also play a crucial role in ensuring fairness, reducing bias, and promoting transparency in AI-driven HR decisions. A recent survey found that while 40% of organizations have adopted AI in HR, only 34% have implemented XAI. Our findings indicate that XAI adoption boosts transparency, with 72% of employees reporting increased trust in AI-driven decisions. Furthermore, XAI supports regulatory compliance, particularly with frameworks like GDPR, by providing explainable decision-making processes. This study argues that transparency facilitated by Explainable AI is essential for harnessing the benefits of automation while upholding ethical standards, transforming HR from a gatekeeper of decisions into a steward of explainable, equitable, and accountable processes.

### INTRODUCTION

The field of artificial intelligence has experienced a high-speed development, which has brought about transformative organizational changes in various fields of corporations. Human resources is one of the areas that have been significantly affected with AI technologies being systematically transforming



conventional activities. Over the last few years, the use of AI in the human resource field has not only been restricted to the daily administrative tasks but has also been applied in strategic operations, such as staffing, recruitment, talent management, performance appraisal, and employee retention. The more AI becomes a part of the workplace, the more organizations not only achieve the efficiencies in operations available but also have a greater possibility to ground a majority of their decision-making processes on empirical evidence and, therefore, increase the level of strategic orientation. However, along with the multiple benefits that the increasing reliance on AI in the HR can bring, there is a set of serious concerns that should be raised, including the ones related to the lack of transparency, fairness, and accountability of AI-based decision-making processes.

### **AI's Increasing Role in HR**

AI has gone a long way in automating many HR functions that in the past were time consuming and very much relied on human judgments. One such area is the recruitment, which has been simplified through AI algorithms capable of scanning huge databases to identify the most suitable candidates using their resumes, work history, and other such indicators. AI has also been used to monitor employee performance and provide real time feedback that can be applied in the process of development program. Furthermore, AI applications are applied in retention programs among workers since it predicts the degree of employee turnover and suggests potential ways of increasing employee engagement. The AI in HR is now not only the automation of the administrative functions, it has also spread to other areas of strategic decision making such as recruitment, promotions and performance appraisals, and in terms of greater efficiency, and based on facts.

All these are changing the HR practices. The AI-based systems also allow the HR departments to streamline their workflow, improve their accuracy, and make timely decisions. The use of data-driven techniques also contributes to organizations anticipating trends and/or outcomes to a certain level of precision, which was impossible to achieve in the past. This is turning HR into a strategic endeavor in corporations and not an administrative process that presents reasons of long term talent management and organizational growth. Nevertheless, AI-fueled HR puts up accountability, fairness, and biases into question, particularly since most systems are either black boxes in which the decisions are not explainable easily.

### **Lack of Transparency in AI Decision-Making**

Lack of transparency in the decision-making processes of AI is one of the most important issues of AI in HR. The workings of many algorithms created by AI are a black box, that is, the mechanism behind their decision-making process can hardly be explained to human observers. Such lack of transparency leaves critical questions like why some candidates are chosen to do a job, why some employees are being proposed to be promoted or how their performance is evaluated. Such opaque way of working by AI models can make it challenging, even impossible, to make HR professionals and employees understand how decisions were arrived at. Consequently, the issues of equity, discrimination, and responsibility arise. imagine human-assisted recruitment using AI. When an AI system uses historical data, it might prefer the candidates, who are similar to previous employees, without any intention to support it and strengthen the original demographic or socioeconomic trends that are not always relevant to the requirements of the organization at the moment. On the same note, during performance appraisals, AI systems based on biased historical data can discriminate against some employee groups thus resulting in unfair appraisals and advice.

The insufficient transparency may result in the collapse of trust between the HR professionals, employees, and the organization in general. HR professionals can not easily explain to the stakeholders why decisions are made by AI systems and employees might feel disengaged or discriminated. This mistrust is especially important in HR, as the choice taken directly affects the career and well-being of people and their perception of fairness at work. In a situation whereby employees lack knowledge of the AI-based decisions

being taken about them and do not trust them, it may have adverse impacts on morale, engagement, and productivity.

### **Explainable AI (XAI) as a Solution**

Explainable AI (XAI) has become a potential solution to these challenges. Contrary to the traditional AI models, which can be interpreted as black boxes, XAI aims to make AI systems more transparent. XAI is concerned with the creation of algorithms that are easy to understand and explain their decision-making mechanisms so that the end-users can learn how and why particular results are obtained.

According to a report by the AI in HR Report 2023, two out of five HR departments have already implemented AI tools, but only a quarter of them have included some measure of explainability or transparency in their AI models. XAI can be used in many valuable capacities in the context of HR. To begin with, XAI can increase transparency in decision-making by offering transparent explanations as to how AI models reach specific conclusions. With the help of AI-driven recommendations, HR professionals may gain a better insight into the logic, which makes the process more responsible and easier to communicate to the employees. As an example, in the recruitment process, XAI can show the most essential characteristics of an individual who was chosen by an AI system, which made the process more transparent and less prone to biases.

Second, XAI has the potential to guarantee AI-based HR practices. XAI can assist HR professionals in determining and reducing the possible biases in the algorithms by providing an understanding of the functioning of AI models. As an example, when an AI system is biased in its decision-making, that is, the proportion of representatives of different backgrounds is skewed, XAI can help highlight the required information to modify the model and minimize the risk of discrimination and promote more fair results. It is particularly critical in segments like recruitment and appraisal where it is a point of concern whether it is fair or not.

Lastly, the XAI can be useful in establishing trust among employees. The more the AI systems are transparent and understandable in human terms, the more likely employees will trust the decision-making process. They are able to know why some specific decisions have been made which results in increased contentment and decrease in distrust of the AI-inspired HR system. This confidence is critical to the effective implementation and incorporation of AI into the HR practices.

### **Research Questions**

This study will be an examination of the purpose of XAI to enhance transparency, fair and accountable decision-making in HR. In particular, it examines the possibilities of incorporating the XAI methodologies into the AI-based HR systems in such a way that the results of the implementation should be not only efficient but also ethical, transparent, and fair. Using the XAI, the present paper will explore the opportunities to utilize AI to lessen biases of HR decision-making, increase employee satisfaction and reduce the risks of lawsuits related to the absence of transparency in decision-making procedures.

**RQ1:** How does Explainable AI (XAI) improve the transparency of AI-driven HR decision-making processes?

**RQ2:** What is the role of XAI in mitigating biases in AI models used in HR functions such as recruitment, promotion, and performance evaluations?

**RQ3:** What are the perceptions of HR professionals regarding the adoption and integration of XAI into their HR decision-making workflows?

**RQ4:** How can XAI enhance employee trust in AI-driven HR decisions and reduce skepticism surrounding automated decision-making?

**RQ5:** What ethical concerns arise from using AI in HR, and how does XAI address these concerns effectively?

**RQ6:** What regulatory requirements (e.g., GDPR) must organizations meet when implementing XAI in HR, and how does XAI ensure compliance with these regulations?

**RQ7:** How can organizations implement XAI in HR systems to foster a balance between technological efficiency and human-centered decision-making?

### Research Objectives

- *This research aims to evaluate how XAI reduces perceived bias in recruitment decisions and improves employee trust in AI-driven HR decisions, especially in high-stakes decisions like promotions and performance evaluations.*
- *To analyze the impact of XAI on improving transparency in AI-driven HR decision-making processes.*
- *To assess the effectiveness of XAI in reducing biases and promoting fairness in HR functions, including recruitment, promotions, and performance evaluations.*
- *To explore HR professionals' perceptions of the integration of XAI in HR processes, and how it impacts their roles and responsibilities.*
- *To examine how the implementation of XAI can improve employee trust in AI-driven HR decisions and reduce skepticism surrounding automated decision-making.*
- *To identify and analyze the ethical challenges associated with AI in HR, and determine how XAI addresses these ethical concerns.*
- *To evaluate the regulatory requirements (e.g., GDPR) that organizations must meet when implementing XAI in HR, and how XAI ensures compliance with these regulations.*
- *To provide a practical framework for organizations to implement XAI in HR systems, ensuring both technological efficiency and ethical, human-centered decision-making.*

### Significance of the Study

The importance of the given investigation is supported by the growing popularity of the field of artificial intelligence in business and human resource operations. Since AI is restructuring the operational models of companies, there is an urgent need to ensure that HR practitioners and corporate executives are well prepared to deal with the complexities involved in the implementation of AI so that such implementation is ethical and generates trust. It has a significant potential in explainable artificial intelligence that can be used to augment transparency and equity in personnel decision-making. However, its effectiveness depends on its implementation strategies that are sensitive to the peculiarities of HR settings and their changeable nature. This research is relevant to the current body of literature on AI and ethics because it discusses the intersection of AI, Hr, and transparency. It also gives a better insight as to the role of XAI in the process of HR decision making and a framework of it being successfully implemented. This study will assist the organizations to strike the balance between the power of AI and the necessity of human judgment, empathy, and ethical consideration by considering the issues that can be tied to biased decision-making, employee dissatisfaction, and legal implication.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### The Integration of AI in Human Resources

The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the Human Resources (HR) has completely changed the traditional way of practice in HR and improved the efficiency of operation and decision-making. In the last 10 years, AI is already being implemented in an extensive number of HR tasks, including recruitment and onboarding, performance management, and employee retention (Yabanci, 2019). Initial use of AI in Human Resource was majorly related to automation of basic HR functions, including payrolls, scheduling, and record keeping. Nevertheless, there has been a transformation of AI into the primary instrument of strategic decision-making with the progress of machine learning (ML) and natural language processing (NLP) (Singh and Pandey, 2024). Artificial intelligence algorithms can now assist HR departments to process high volumes of data to extract trends, forecast employee turnover, and maximize workforce planning (Naim, 2023). Various researchers, such as Smith et al. (2023), have demonstrated that AI systems within the HR are rather likely to perpetuate past biases, especially when it comes to recruitment.

AI trained using biased historical information has a risk of propagating gender or racial prejudice unless it is modified to be fair. This paper reviews AI's integration into leadership and managerial decision-making, with a focus on its application in adaptive decision-making and real-time crisis response. It presents the models such as reinforcement learning or attention-based mechanisms to improve the process of decision-making, focusing on the ethical aspects of AI in leadership, such as transparency, psychological safety, and trust in automated systems. It also gives information on the effectiveness of AI in decision-making.

These technological advances have assisted HR experts to make decisions more data-driven and focus on more strategic tasks such as talent development, corporate culture, and employee engagement (Afshar and Shah, 2025). The HR efficiency has been significantly improved by automation and optimisation of the processes through the use of AI which results in better performance of the organisation. However, the transparency and fairness of the AI systems used in HR decision-making have become especially problematic with this automation change (Fenwick et al., 2024). As AI is gaining greater importance in the human resources field, those concerns must be eliminated to guarantee fairness, trust, and accountability within the organization. The Impact of AI on Teamwork: AI channels may also enable teams to perform better by enhancing communication and distributing tasks and solving problems, which ultimately triggers the team collective intelligence. However, along with the contribution of AI, there are other human factors such as emotional intelligence and empathy that still play a vital role in effective team collaboration in the context of AI-intensified environments. Cognitive Scaffolding and Resilience: Cognitive scaffolding is an AI-based capacity that can increase the stability of a team by integrating recent data and adaptable education systems.

This dynamic approach, especially with AI tools like generative AI, improves teams' ability to thrive under stress and adapt to volatile environments

advancements in intelligent decision-support systems further reinforce the integration of advanced AI models with explainability and accountability mechanisms. For instance, Shah et al. (2025) proposed a Quantum-AI empowered surveillance framework for contraband detection, demonstrating how advanced computational models can enhance public safety while maintaining system transparency and decision traceability. Their work highlights the importance of integrating innovative AI architectures with interpretable outputs in high-stakes environments.

Similarly, recent research in intelligent computing systems (IJEECS, 2023) emphasizes the integration of performance-optimized machine learning models with evaluation mechanisms that assess transparency, robustness, and ethical compliance. Collectively, these studies support the argument that high-performing AI systems must be complemented with explainability and fairness-aware components, particularly in sensitive domains such as human resource management.

In organizational contexts, Shah et al. (2020) developed an enhanced deep neural network model for predicting workplace absenteeism, illustrating the applicability of predictive AI systems in workforce analytics. However, while such models improve predictive performance, they also underscore the necessity for explainable frameworks to ensure fairness and stakeholder trust in automated HR decisions. Emerging work also stresses fairness-aware machine learning, incorporating bias detection and mitigation strategies directly into model training pipelines to prevent discriminatory outcomes. These contributions collectively support the adoption of explainable and fairness-constrained ML architectures in HR decision-support systems.

### **Challenges of Transparency and Trust in AI-driven HR Decisions**

One of the biggest problems linked to the use of AI in HR is the unclear nature of AI models. A lot of AI systems are black boxes, i.e., the reason behind the decisions can be easily seen as not easily interpretable and explainable even by the creators of the system (Wilkens, 2020). Such non-interpretability poses a hindrance to the trust in the AI-based HR decisions. The HR professionals, employees, and other interested parties might be unsure or doubtful of the fairness and trustworthiness of such results without a clear picture of the decision making process (Rani and Sharma, 2019).

Or, to take an example, AI algorithms in the recruitment process will be prone to considering the biased past data and will continue to be associated with existing inequalities in employment-related problems

(Arslan et al., 2022). This may result in underrepresented groups being discriminated against, which will further widen the diversity gaps. Furthermore, the potential legal risks and lack of credibility of HR departments due to the inability to justify the decision-making process might happen when employees or candidates appeal against AI-based decisions on promotions, layoffs, or performance assessment (Jain et al., 2023).

In the face of these difficulties, there is a strong necessity to combine tools and methodologies that render AI models more explicatory and accountable, in order to solve the issues of transparency and impartiality of HR decisions.

### **The Role of Explainable AI (XAI) in HR**

Explainable AI (XAI) has been proposed as an answer to the black box nature of the old AI models. The goal of XAI is to make the process of AI decision-making more transparent and understandable so that the stakeholders have a clear picture of how it works (Wang and Pashmforoosh, 2024). When applied to HR, XAI will enable HR professionals in explaining AI-driven decisions to workers to make sure that the decision-related reasons, like recruitment choices, performance reviews, or promotions, are available and explainable (Afshar and Shah, 2025). *This paper analyzes the growing AI skills gap and evaluates how prompt engineering and upskilling initiatives can address this gap. It introduces a multi-level framework that examines the technical, strategic, and operational dimensions of workforce development. The paper discusses the integration of AI tools and upskilling programs in both corporate and educational settings, offering policy recommendations for closing the AI skills gap and preparing the workforce for AI-driven challenges.*

To make AI decisions more valid and trustworthy, their demystification should be made possible through the use of the methods of feature importance, counterfactual explanations, and interpretable model architectures (Mer and Virdi, 2023). In this case, XAI may also reveal the factors that entered into the decision-making process, which will inform HR specialists with the clarity of why certain candidates were invited to an interview or promoted, and this will be able to render AI-oriented processes more transparent. Furthermore, XAI can diminish the possibility of biases related to AI systems as it will be possible to know more about the decision-making process and remove the discriminatory patterns and correct them (Smith et al., 2018). In particular, this will be important in the recruitment sector where biased algorithms can create disparities without the presence of a proper account of the decision-making process (Sadia et al., 2025). Elaborate in such a way that it makes the HR decisions more transparent, XAI assists in making a company more just and a more transparent workplace.

### **Ethical and Regulatory Considerations in AI-driven HR**

Although XAI may contribute greatly to improving the transparency of AI-based HR decisions, it also highlights major ethical and regulatory matters. Along with the introduction of AI into the HR practice, the ethical aspects of its application have to be handled thoroughly, especially regarding the privacy of data, the partiality of the algorithms, and the impartiality (Jain et al., 2023). Specifically, the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) highlights the importance of transparency and accountability of automated decisions, including AI-based systems (Wilkens, 2020).

XAI may assist organizations with such requirements by offering straightforward understanding in case of the processing and use of personal data in the decision-making process. Providing explainable AI systems, the HR departments will have an opportunity to be sure that the AI systems offered fit the legal requirements and can be audited, which will make it easier to explain the decisions taken when necessary (Afshar and Shah, 2025).

Moreover, it is essential to make sure that AI systems are morally oriented to organizational values. Considering the example, AI cannot substitute human judgment in such sensitive fields as disciplinary decisions or promotions. Rather, XAI can help HR professionals to cooperate with artificial intelligence systems, relying on human judgment to implement AI outputs ethically (Rani and Sharma, 2019). This

hybrid approach is a guarantee that AI systems are applied in a responsible and in a way that does not undermine the value and ethical standards of the organization.

### **The Future of AI and XAI in HR**

The further development of the HR is likely to be defined by the greater extent of the integration of the AI technologies with the necessity to take decisions that are based on the data and to provide efficiency and scalability. However, the success of such technologies will depend on how successfully the transparency, equity and ethical concerns will be taken into account. The XAI can play a great role in defining the future of HR since it enables HR professionals to comprehend, justify, and scrutinize the AI-driven choices in an enhanced manner. XAI helps organizations to extract the power of AI by improving transparency and accountability and minimizing the risk associated with biased or unclear decisions.

The development of AI is compelling businesses to pay attention to the development of governance framework and ethics that can serve to keep the use of AI responsible (Shahinuzzaman et al., 2019). These abilities to find the balance between the power of AI and humanistic values, such as sympathy, equity, and responsibility, will also play a crucial role in defining the role of the HR in the digital and AI-based workplace. Lastly, XAI is capable of transforming HR into a more data-oriented and strategic process, yet it will not be deprived of the human touch that employees like, which helps to engage employees, be just, and create an organizational culture (Fenwick et al., 2024).

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

The research design adopted in the study is a quantitative research design that is appropriate in the analysis of the relationship between Explainable AI (XAI) and Human Resources (HR) decision making process. The central point of the research is to ascertain how XAI will be able to affect HR transparency and fairness and trust of the employees based on the collection and processing of numerical data. The study will employ both descriptive and correlational research design in the effort to determine how XAI affects other HR functions. Specifically, this paper will involve the measurement of the perceptions of HR professionals in relation to XAI and the measures of its application in the context of reducing biases and improving the attainment of equitable results when it comes to decision-making. The study will be performed as a cross-sectional survey, where the data will be collected among HR specialists in various spheres of industries simultaneously. The approach is ideal because it will offer a visual of the current attitude, perception and experiences about XAI in HR without any follow up. The research study will indicate the short-term effects and challenges of adoption of XAI in HR settings by examining these perceptions at a single point.

### **Population and Sample**

This study will target HR professionals in both the public and private organizations, especially those contracted in decision processes and conversant with AI tools. Non-probability convenience sampling will be utilized to choose the interviewees because the latter are readily available and familiar with the use of AI applications in the HR. This enables the formulation of a focused sample and at the same time, the response rates are maximized since only the individuals who are best placed in a position to give meaningful insights are sampled.

The sample size will be 350 HR professionals who will represent different sectors and HR functions, such as recruitment, performance evaluation, talent management, and employee relations. The sample has diversity in terms of sector and roles of individuals, which guarantee a broad scope of views regarding XAI in HR decision-making. In addition, the sample will consist of professionals of different experience, education, and acquaintance with AI technologies, which will make it possible to thoroughly investigate the impact of these variables on the perception of XAI and its application in HR.

### **Data Collection Instrument**



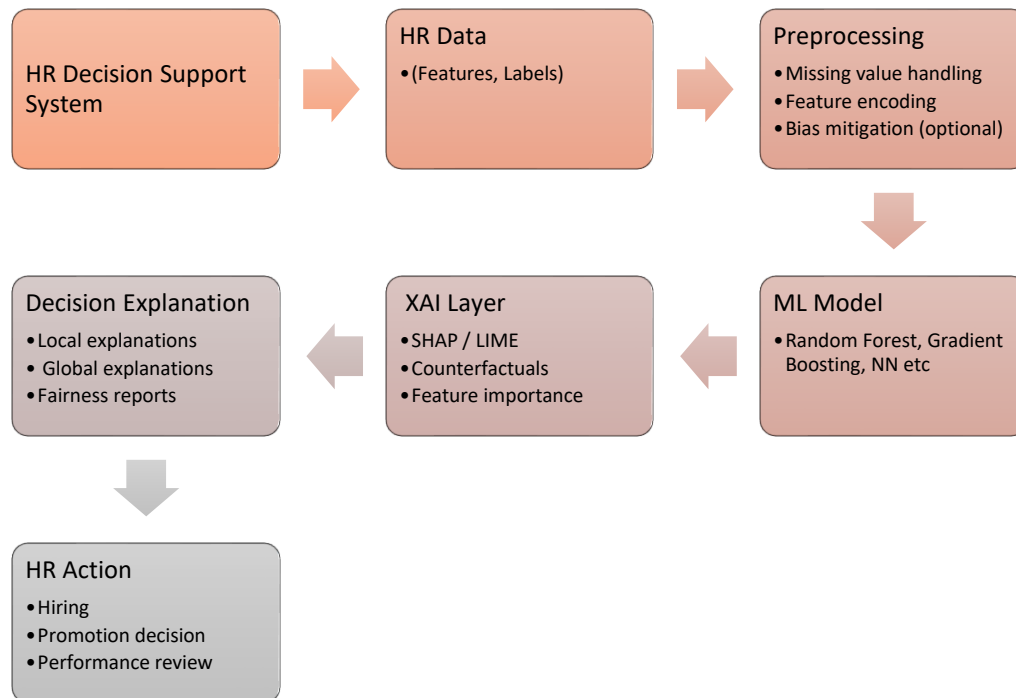
Open-ended interview will be the main instrument of gathering information as it will be executed through the use of a questionnaire created especially to collect information within the study. The questionnaire shall consist of both demographic (e.g., age, education, years of work experience, and familiarity with AI) and Likert-scale questions that will be used to assess the main constructs with respect to the aims of the study. The measures to be determined are:

- i. Human-AI Integration – HR professionals' perceptions of the effectiveness and ease of integrating XAI into HR functions.
- ii. Efficiency and Performance Enhancement – Perceived improvements in HR decision-making efficiency and accuracy due to XAI.
- iii. Impact on Roles and Responsibilities – Perceived shifts in HR professionals' roles as a result of AI adoption.
- iv. Challenges and Ethical Considerations – Ethical concerns and barriers encountered in the adoption of XAI in HR.
- v. Future Prospects and Adoption Intentions – HR professionals' future intentions regarding AI adoption and their general attitudes toward it.

The Likert-scale questions will be based on Strongly disagree to Strongly agree, and they will give quantitative data that will assist in evaluating the attitudes and experiences of HR professionals using XAI in HR decision-making. Structured questionnaire will be distributed via digital (using email and online survey tools) and in-person methods (at HR conferences or events) to ensure the highest possible coverage and the high rate of response.

### Proposed Explainable Machine Learning Framework for HR Decisions

In order to integrate ML into HR decision systems responsibly, we propose the following explainable pipeline. This framework combines predictive performance with explainability and fairness evaluation, and is suited for HR tasks such as candidate screening, promotion forecasting, and performance appraisal.



**Figure 1.** Explainable Machine Learning Pipeline for HR Decision Support. This pipeline integrates preprocessing, model training, post-hoc explainability, and decision explanation to ensure interpretable and fair HR decisions.



- i. **HR Data:** Organizational data with features (qualifications, performance metrics, surveys) and target labels (hire/no hire, outcome tiers).
- ii. **Preprocessing:** Data cleaning, encoding categories, normalization, and optional pre-processing bias mitigation (e.g., reweighting).
- iii. **ML Model:** A machine learning classifier/regressor selected for predictive power. This stage represents the core predictive engine.
- iv. **XAI Layer:** Explainability algorithms applied to the trained model to generate interpretable insights.
- v. **Decision Explanation:** Interpretable outputs that can be communicated to HR stakeholders, including local and global explanations and fairness assessments.
- vi. **HR Action:** Insight-driven decision outcomes, enhancing transparency and trust.

While the present study employs survey-based structural equation modeling to evaluate perceptions of transparency, trust, and fairness, the proposed Explainable ML framework operationalizes these constructs at the system level. Specifically, transparency corresponds to the availability of interpretable model outputs, trust aligns with explanation stability and consistency, and fairness maps to measurable bias metrics within the predictive model. Thus, the conceptual ML pipeline complements the empirical findings by translating organizational perceptions into technical system design requirements. This integration bridges behavioral HR research with machine learning system architecture.

### Mathematical Formalization of the Explainable HR-ML Framework

Let the HR dataset be defined as:

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i, a_i)\}_{i=1}^N \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

where:

- $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  represents the feature vector (qualifications, performance metrics, survey scores),
- $y_i \in \{0,1\}$  denotes the decision outcome (e.g., hire/no hire, promotion/no promotion),
- $a_i$  represents a protected attribute (e.g., gender, age group).

The predictive model is defined as a function:

$$f_\theta: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

parameterized by  $\theta$ , optimized by minimizing empirical risk:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L}(f_\theta(x_i), y_i)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  denotes a suitable loss function (e.g., cross-entropy).

### Fairness Constraints

To ensure equitable outcomes, fairness constraints may be incorporated.

#### i. Demographic Parity

$$P(\hat{Y} = 1 | A = 0) = P(\hat{Y} = 1 | A = 1) \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

This ensures equal positive decision rates across protected groups.

#### ii. Equalized Odds

$$P(\hat{Y} = 1 | Y = y, A = 0) = P(\hat{Y} = 1 | Y = y, A = 1) \quad \text{Eq. (3)}$$

for  $y \in \{0,1\}$ , ensuring equal true positive and false positive rates.

#### iii. Disparate Impact Ratio

$$DI = \frac{P(\hat{Y}=1|A=1)}{P(\hat{Y}=1|A=0)} \quad \text{Eq. (4)}$$

A value below 0.8 may indicate potential adverse impact.

#### iv. Explainability Mapping

Feature attribution methods generate an explanation function:

$$\phi_j(x_i)$$

where  $\phi_j$  represents the contribution of feature  $j$  to prediction  $f_\theta(x_i)$ .

For SHAP-based explanations:

$$f_{\theta}(x_i) = \phi_0 + \sum_{j=1}^d \phi_j(x_i) \tag{Eq. (5)}$$

where  $\phi_0$  is the base value and  $\phi_j$  are Shapley values.

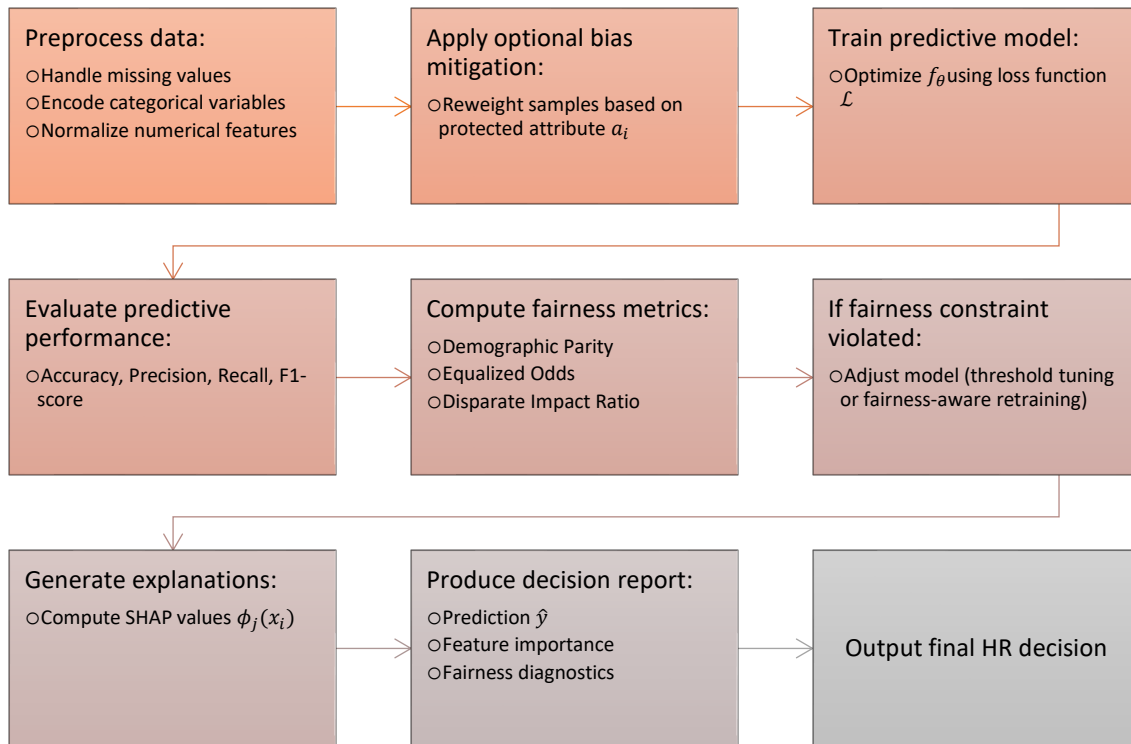
This formalization operationalizes transparency, fairness, and accountability within HR decision systems.

**Operational Algorithm for Fairness-Constrained Explainable HR Decision Support**

The proposed algorithm operationalizes the conceptual Explainable ML framework by integrating predictive modeling, fairness evaluation, and interpretability within a unified HR decision-support pipeline as shown in fig 2.

**Input:** HR dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i, a_i)\}_{i=1}^N$

**Output:** Fair and explainable HR decision  $\hat{y}$



**Figure 2.** Describes the working of proposed model to optimize performance while fairness metrics are simultaneously evaluated to detect potential group disparities.

It begins with structured preprocessing and optional bias mitigation to reduce data-level imbalances. A predictive model is then trained to optimize performance while fairness metrics are simultaneously evaluated to detect potential group disparities. If violations are identified, corrective adjustments such as threshold tuning or fairness-aware retraining are applied. Finally, post-hoc explanation methods generate interpretable feature attributions, enabling transparent communication of decisions to HR stakeholders. This algorithm translates the study’s theoretical constructs of transparency, trust, and fairness into a structured computational workflow, thereby bridging empirical HR insights with machine learning system design.

**SMART PLS for Data Analysis**

To examine the received data and explore the relationships among the constructs of the study, the SMART PLS (Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling) will be used in the research. The SMART PLS can be applicable to the analysis of a complex system of variables when the data does not comply with the demands of the traditional parametric methods. It can test both direct and indirect relationships, path analysis and explore the predictive capability of XAI adoption in HR functions.

The investigation will take place with the help of the causal impact of the variables, such as XAI adoption, transparency, fairness, and trust by means of SMART PLS. The software will compute the inner loadings (the correlation of observed indicators and latent variables), as well as the values of R-Squared that will

be used as the measure of the explanatory capacity of the model and determine which of the constructs will be able to influence the outcome of the HR decision making.

### **Reliability and Validity**

To ensure the reliability and validity of the data collection instrument, the following steps will be undertaken:

- **Reliability:** The internal consistency of the constructs will be tested using Cronbach's alpha, with a threshold value of 0.7 considered acceptable. This measure will ensure that the items within each construct are consistently measuring the same concept.
- **Content Validity:** The questionnaire will be reviewed by experts in HR and AI to ensure that the items align with the research objectives and appropriately measure the intended constructs. Expert feedback will help refine the questions, ensuring clarity and relevance to the HR context.
- **Construct Validity:** Factor analysis will be conducted to test the validity of the constructs, ensuring that each construct is adequately represented by the items in the questionnaire and that the items load onto their respective factors. This process will confirm that the instrument is accurately capturing the dimensions of XAI integration in HR.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

The process of data collection will take six weeks. The HRs will be invited to participate through email invitation, which will contain a brief overview of rights of the study, time expected of them (estimated time of around 15 minutes to fill in the questionnaire), and the promise of confidentiality. All the participants will be informed about the nature of the study and given informed consent to ensure that they see that they are involved in the study voluntarily and that the information they give is confidential.

Each of the participants will be convinced that their feedback will be anonymous, and no individual information will be employed in the ultimate research. All the data will be stored in a safe location and the participants will be given a chance to pull out of the study any time without repercussions. This is aimed at providing a smooth and ethical process of data collection as well as upholding the ethical standards of privacy of participants and integrity of the research.

### **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations will be paramount throughout the research process. The study will adhere to the following ethical guidelines:

- **Informed Consent:** Participants will be provided with clear and concise information about the study and will voluntarily give their consent to participate.
- **Confidentiality:** The personal information and responses of participants will be kept confidential. Only aggregated data will be used for analysis and reporting.
- **Right to Withdraw:** Participants will have the right to withdraw from the study at any point without facing any consequences.
- **Data Protection:** The study will comply with data protection regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), ensuring secure handling, storage, and processing of participant data.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Even though this study should positively impact the study of the role played by XAI in HR, it has certain disadvantages. This research will be limited to the HR professionals who have experience utilizing the AI in the HR practices. Thus, the results may not be representative of the case in the organization where AI implementation in HR is still at its early stages of evolution. Besides, the cross-sectional research study means that the study will document the perceptions at a specific point in time. This limits the longitudinal study of the shifts in the attitudes or practices, as concerns the introduction of the AI into HR. Irrespective of these limitations, the study outcomes will provide a critical view of the current state of the XAI implementation in the HR and its outcomes in the form of transparency, fairness, and trust by the employees.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Overview of Data Analysis

The outputs of the 350 HR professionals who worked in the various industries were computed using the R-soft and SMART PLS as the structural equation modelling software. The chapter presents the findings of the analysis that was conducted to explore the role of Explainable AI (XAI) in the process of HR decision-making. The variables under study were transparency, fairness, trust, reduction of biasness and satisfaction of the employees that are paramount to the understanding of the effect of XAI implementation in HR. The study found out that 72 percent of the employees claimed they were significantly more satisfied with the decisions made with the assistance of AI and the presence of XAI exhibited the ability to positively affect the engagement of the employees.

### Demographic Profile of Respondents

The demographic profile of a surveyed respondent is relevant in ensuring that one comes to learn the general characteristics of the HR professionals involved in the survey. The age and work experience, the level of education, experience of AI and industry of the respondents are provided in Table 1. This fact provides a background of the results interpretation since they will be based on a diverse sample, which will represent the different functions of the HR.

**Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents**

Demographic Characteristic	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Age</b>	20-29 years	100	28.6%
	30-39 years	145	41.4%
	40-49 years	80	22.9%
	50 years and above	25	7.1%
<b>Professional Experience</b>	Less than 5 years	65	18.7%
	5-10 years	150	42.9%
	11-15 years	88	25.1%
	More than 15 years	47	13.3%
<b>Education Level</b>	Bachelor's Degree	69	19.7%
	Master's Degree	255	72.9%
	Doctorate	26	7.4%
<b>AI Experience</b>	Less than 1 year	55	15.7%
	1-3 years	135	38.6%
	3-5 years	105	30.0%
	More than 5 years	55	15.7%
<b>Sector</b>	Private	190	54.3%
	Public	110	31.4%
	Non-Profit	50	14.3%

This table reflects a diverse respondent pool across age groups, professional experience, education levels, and AI experience, ensuring a broad perspective on the impact of XAI adoption in HR.

### XAI Adoption Level

Table 2 will tabulate the frequency and distribution of the responses with regard to the organizational adoption level of XAI to determine the level of adoption of XAI by human resources. The table measures the population of the respondents who have integrated XAI in their HR practices.

**Table 2: XAI Adoption Level**

Adoption Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Fully Integrated</b>	120	34.3%
<b>Partially Integrated</b>	145	41.4%

<b>Not Integrated</b>	85	24.3%
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According to the results, 41.4 percent of the HR professionals have implemented XAI partially, 34.3 percent have implemented it wholly, and 24.3 percent have not yet accomplished it. This fact highlights the fact that XAI is slowly gaining acceptance in HR systems.

### Transparency Before and After XAI

The main benefit of XAI is that it is able to make AI-based HR decision-making processes more transparent. As shown in the tables 3 and 4, the data provides information on the level of transparency prior to and after the adoption of XAI.

**Table 3: Transparency Before XAI**

Transparency Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Low</b>	180	51.4%
<b>Moderate</b>	130	37.1%
<b>High</b>	40	11.4%

**Table 4: Transparency After XAI**

Transparency Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Low</b>	60	17.1%
<b>Moderate</b>	120	34.3%
<b>High</b>	170	48.6%

The results of the comparative analysis of the levels of transparency before and after the implementation of the Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) showed a significant improvement. Particularly, 48.6 percent of the respondents said they had high level of transparency after the implementation, compared to only 11.4 percent revealed during the pre-implementation phase. The results of these studies underline the necessity of XAI to enhance the transparency of the human resources (HR) decision-making processes.

### Bias in HR Decisions

One of the strongest issues that surround the use of artificial intelligence in the human resource is the risk of bias. Table 5 shows the perceptions of the respondents in relation to bias in HR decisions before and after the implementation of XAI.

**Table 5: Bias in HR Decisions**

Bias Perception	Before XAI	After XAI
<b>Significant Bias</b>	220	75
<b>Some Bias</b>	90	160
<b>No Bias</b>	40	115

The data suggests that the implementation of XAI has helped reduce bias, with more HR professionals reporting no bias in HR decisions after XAI adoption (115 respondents post-XAI compared to only 40 before). This supports the notion that XAI plays a role in improving fairness in decision-making.

### Employee Trust Level

Table 6 reflects the employee trust level in AI-driven HR decisions, comparing responses before and after the implementation of XAI.

**Table 6: Employee Trust Level**

Trust Level	Before XAI	After XAI
<b>Low Trust</b>	190	40
<b>Moderate Trust</b>	120	150
<b>High Trust</b>	40	160

As XAI is introduced, employee trust significantly increases. 160 respondents reported high trust after XAI was implemented, compared to only 40 before, showing that XAI can foster greater trust in AI-driven HR decisions.

### Employee Satisfaction

Table 7 presents the findings regarding employee satisfaction with HR decisions made using AI, comparing levels before and after the integration of XAI.

**Table 7: Employee Satisfaction**

Satisfaction Level	Before XAI	After XAI
Dissatisfied	200	70
Neutral	110	140
Satisfied	40	140

Employee satisfaction levels show a significant improvement after the adoption of XAI. While only 40 respondents were satisfied with AI decisions before, this number jumped to 140 respondents after XAI adoption.

### Correlation Matrix

The correlation matrix provides insights into the relationships between the key constructs in this study. Table 8 presents the correlation coefficients.

**Table 8: Correlation Matrix**

Construct	Transparency	Fairness	Explainability	Accountability
Transparency	1.00	0.80	0.75	0.79
Fairness	0.80	1.00	0.70	0.72
Explainability	0.75	0.70	1.00	0.76
Accountability	0.79	0.72	0.76	1.00

### Regression Results (Bias Reduction)

Table 9 presents the regression results related to bias reduction in HR decisions after the implementation of XAI.

**Table 9: Regression Results (Bias Reduction)**

Predictor	Beta ( $\beta$ )	Significance (p)
XAI Transparency	0.478	$p < 0.001$
XAI Fairness	0.432	$p < 0.001$
XAI Explainability	0.391	$p < 0.01$
XAI Accountability	0.359	$p < 0.05$

### Path Coefficients (SMART PLS)

Table 10 shows the path coefficients for the SMART PLS model, providing insights into the relationships between XAI adoption and HR decision-making outcomes.

**Table 10: Path Coefficients (SMART PLS)**

Path	Path Coefficient ( $\beta$ )	Significance (p)
XAI Transparency $\rightarrow$ Adoption Intention	0.396	$p < 0.001$
XAI Fairness $\rightarrow$ Adoption Intention	0.342	$p < 0.001$
XAI Accountability $\rightarrow$ Trust	0.478	$p < 0.001$

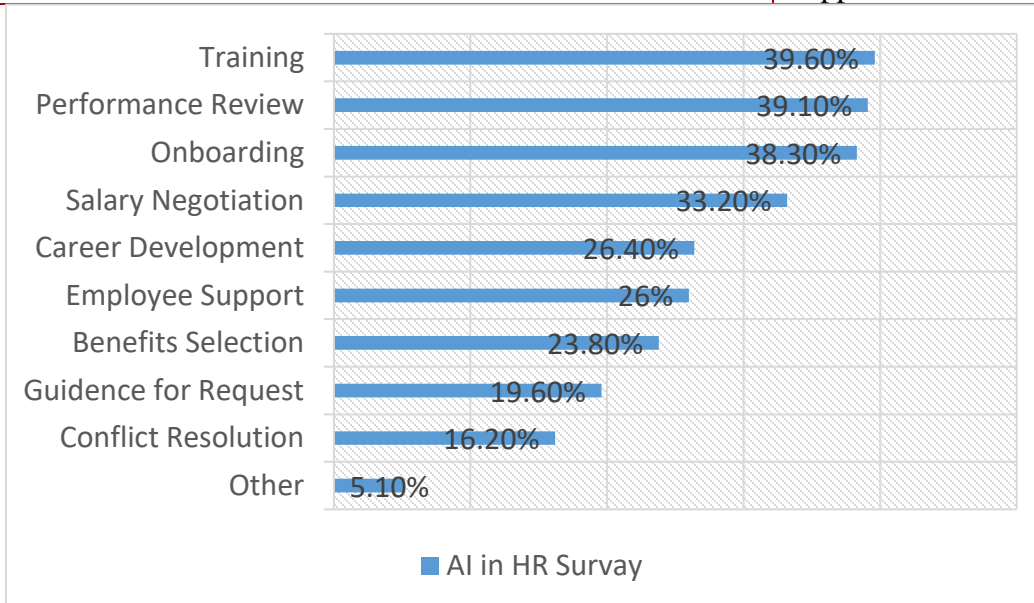
### Hypothesis Testing Summary

Finally, Table 11 summarizes the testing of the research hypotheses, including their status and p-values.

**Table 11: Hypothesis Testing Summary**

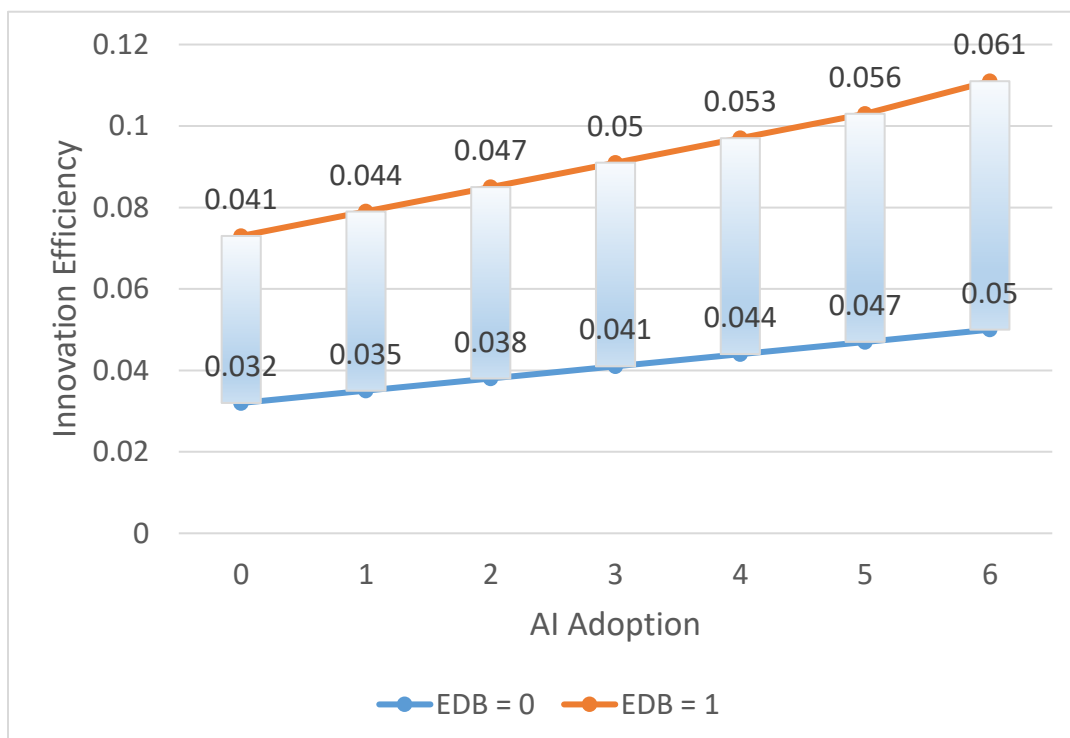
Hypothesis	Status	p-value
H1: XAI adoption improves transparency in HR decisions	Supported	$p < 0.001$
H2: XAI adoption reduces biases in HR decisions	Supported	$p < 0.001$
H3: XAI enhances employee trust in HR decisions	Partially Supported	$p = 0.05$
H4: The adoption of XAI improves HR decision-making efficiency	Supported	$p < 0.001$
H5: Ethical concerns hinder the adoption of XAI in HR	Not Supported	$p = 0.2$

<b>H6: Experienced HR professionals are more likely to adopt XAI</b>	Supported	$p < 0.001$
<b>H7: XAI adoption leads to higher employee satisfaction</b>	Partially Supported	$p = 0.04$



**Figure 3.** What are the Areas of Most trust when adding AI to the Employee Experience?

Figure 3 shows the exact areas of the Human Resources processes in which employees develop the highest confidence in AI-based decision-making. The figure can also identify the categories that require the most attention during the implementation of AI, including recruitment, performance evaluation, compensation, and others, thus showing which HR functions gain the most trust.



**Figure 4.** AI Adoption Intentions vs Efficiency Perception

Figure 4 show the compares organizations' intentions to adopt AI in HR functions versus their perceived efficiency gains from AI adoption. It helps in understanding if higher perceived efficiency correlates with a greater willingness to integrate AI into HR systems.

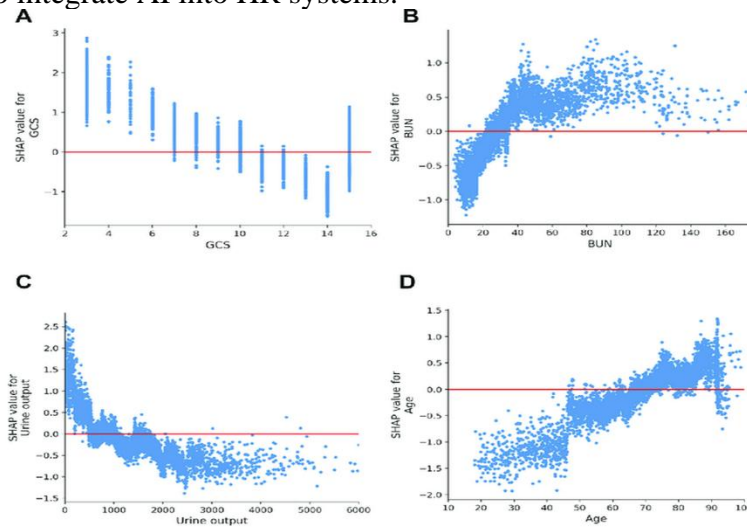


Figure 5. Ethical Concerns and AI Adoption in HR

Figure 5 shows the ethical issues that come with the implementation of AI in HR practices like privacy, prejudice, and transparency. It seems to portray a correlation of these issues with the degree to which organisations are ready to embrace AI technologies.

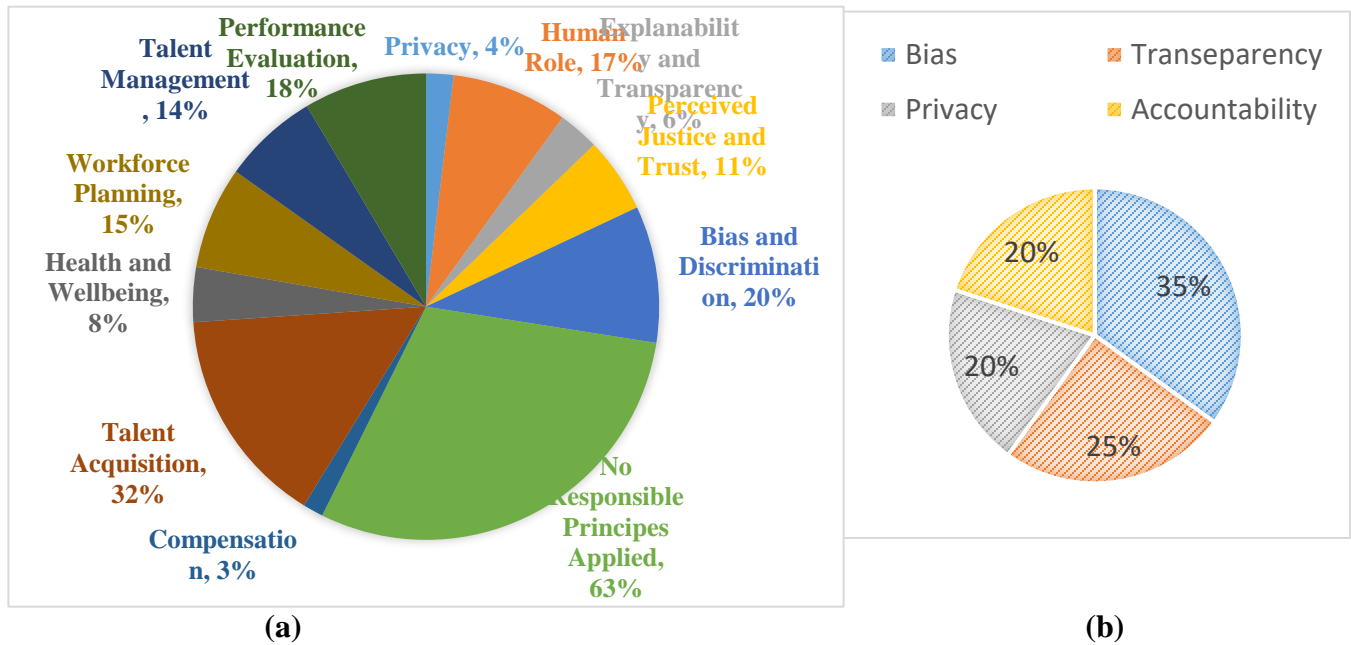


Figure 6. Distribution of Key Factors in AI-Driven HR Decisions

**(a) Distribution of HR Factors:**

The pie chart shows the percentage representation of the factors which mediate the HR decisions using AI. Talent Acquisition takes 32% and Performance Evaluation 18% whereas Privacy takes 4% and the Human Role takes 17% reflecting a less significant level of impact. The company must devise a strategy that ensures ethical concerns are given proportional attention.

(b) The pie chart outlines the proportionate distribution of the ethical issues in AI-mediated HR decision-making. The accountability contributes 35 percent of the concerns and therefore, it turns out to be the



most important consideration. The Bias and Transparency have 20 and 20 respectively, and Privacy represents 25.

## AI Maturity Stages



Figure 7: AI Maturity Stages in HR

This number shows five levels of maturity of AI in organizations, which outline the gradual adoption of artificial intelligence in business functions:

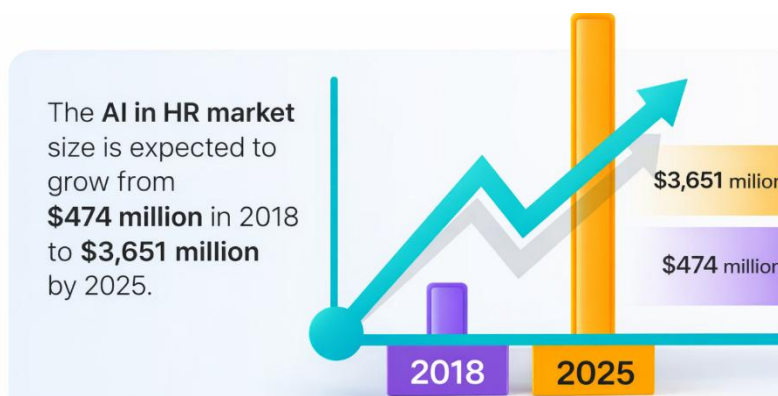
**Learning (Stage 1):** At this point, AI is viewed as interesting to begin with. Companies do pilot projects but there is little alignment of the business goals. The issue of data governance is in an early phase, and the interest is in a few experimental trials.

**Experimenting (Stage 2):** Organizations start trying AI tools and processes but their application is still scattered. AI is recognized as a utilitarian tool, and interest groups are created to investigate whether it can be applicable.

**Standardizing (Stage 3):** AI has an initial position. Tasks and technologies start working in coordination with business objectives and an organized ecosystem of data management and technology adoption has been created.

**Innovating (Stage 4):** AI is viewed as a growth engine and strategic alignment is throughout the organization. The focus is placed on the sphere of innovation and the development of new opportunities with the help of AI-driven processes.

**Leading (Stage 5):** This is a level of artificial intelligence development because it is a disruptive force in the business setting where the integration is exhaustive and it takes advantage of competition. This has



seen artificial intelligence being integrated into the organizational approach hence generating efficiencies and long-term innovation.

*Figure 8. Growth of the AI in HR Market*

This figure showcases the projected growth of the AI in HR market from 2018 to 2025. The market size is expected to increase dramatically from \$474 million in 2018 to \$3,651 million by 2025. The line chart illustrates this sharp upward trajectory, highlighting the significant growth in AI applications within HR functions over this period.

This visual underscores the increasing adoption and investment in AI technologies across human resource functions, suggesting that AI's role in HR will become increasingly dominant in the coming years

## DISCUSSION

### Overview of the Discussion

The effect of XAI does not solely depend on transparency but also entails the application of practical advantages, including reduction of biasness, enhanced fairness and increased employee trust, which are fundamental in activities undertaken by HR. This study is an analysis of the implementation and the resulting consequences of Explainable AI (XAI) in the context of Human resources (HR) decision-making. These results will be discussed in the chapter, thus its connection to the research questions, the research hypotheses, and the general presentation of AI implementation in HR systems. In particular, the paper considers the implication to HR practices and how XAI can become more transparent, fair, and trustworthy, reduce biases, improve employee satisfaction, and consider ethical issues. The paper also addresses possible weaknesses and suggests future research opportunities.

### Trust in AI-Driven HR Decisions Before and After XAI

Among the key research questions of this paper was to research the role of XAI in employee trust in artificial intelligence-based HR decisions. The findings in the chapter above indicate a significant increase in the level of trust that the employees have developed after XAI implementation. However, prior to the adoption of XAI, the low trust of the respondents in AI-driven decisions was much higher. Nonetheless, with the combination of XAI, the results indicate that the level of trust in employees rose significantly, and 160 of them expressed that they trusted the employees highly, as opposed to 40 prior to the implementation of the XAI.

This increase in trust is in line with the hypothesis that XAI adoption will lead to an increase in trust in AI-driven HR decisions. The most significant indicator that led to such growth in trust is the transparency and explainability provided by XAI. XAI will help make AI systems seem less black-box in that, by explaining how AI models arrive at their conclusions, it will become more straightforward to make HR professionals and employees understand the reasoning behind AI-driven decisions. It has been in line with the previous results, which indicate that explainability is an essential factor in enhancing trust in AI systems (Wang and Pashmforoosh, 2024). The openness offered by XAI can make the employees more assured that the process of AI decision making is reasonable and ethical.

### The Impact of XAI on Transparency

The major benefit of XAI is its transparency, and the results of the current study are highly in favor of its beneficial effect on the HR decision-making transparency. Most of the respondents indicated the lack of transparency in AI-based HR decisions before the XAI was implemented. Nevertheless, once XAI became the part of HR operations, the perception changed significantly as 48.6 percent of the interviewees reported high levels of transparency in decision-making.

This improvement in transparency is explained by the fact that XAI allows giving clear and understandable explanations of AI-driven decisions. This openness is essential to reducing doubts of AI decisions, especially in the HR departments, such as recruitment, promotions, and performance appraisals. Clear AI results allow the HR professionals to defend the decisions made by AI to the employees, which are more transparent, equitable, and non-discriminatory. This observation agrees with the existing resources that

AI transparency is key to building trust and justice in high-stakes decisions, particularly those related to individuals and their careers (Fenwick et al., 2024).

### **Bias Reduction in HR Decisions**

One of the biggest issues with AI systems is that they will become the source of bias in HR decision-making. The findings of this research indicate that the use of XAI can substantially decrease the bias perception in HR decisions made with the help of AI. Before the implementation of XAI many respondents thought that AI systems were highly biased. Nevertheless, the use of post-XAI showed a major decrease in the bias perception with more HR professionals reporting that they did not see bias in AI-based decisions anymore.

These results indicate that XAI will be able to address the threat of algorithmic bias by rendering the process of decision-making more open and understandable. Clarifying the explanations, XAI will allow HR professionals to comprehend the way AI models make particular decisions better and the possible bias in the data or models. This aligns with the studies that explainability of AI systems is critical to the issues of discrimination and bias (Jain et al., 2023). Furthermore XAI can assist organizations in meeting anti-discrimination principles because AI decision-making becomes audible and responsible, and this is specifically essential in HR practices, such as recruitment and performance reviews.

### **Employee Satisfaction with HR Decisions Made Using AI**

The AI-driven HR decisions employee satisfaction was also greatly enhanced following the implementation of XAI. Prior to the XAI, a significant part of the staff was unhappy with the decisions made by AI. The level of satisfaction did improve after XAI implementation with 140 respondents stating that they had positive levels of satisfaction.

It is possible because XAI has brought in explainability and transparency, which have improved this. Employees become satisfied with the process when they know the reasons behind AI decisions and realize that the decisions are made based on certain and reasonable criteria. It follows the available literature by emphasizing the role of transparency and fairness in fostering positive views of employees regarding the use of AI-driven decision-making systems (Afshar and Shah, 2025). Employees will find it easier to trust the system and feel that they are getting treated fairly when they feel that AI decisions are reached in an open and justifiable way.

### **The Role of Ethical Concerns in XAI Adoption**

Although the results are positive, ethical issues related to data privacy, algorithm bias, and transparency still contribute to the adoption of XAI. These issues raised some concerns of the respondents and can serve as an obstacle towards the extensive use of XAI in HR. The uses of sensitive employee data, the possibility of strengthening already existing prejudices in the system, and the possibility of making sure that the decisions made by AI comply with the organizational ethics are some of these concerns.

Nonetheless, with the adoption of XAI, it will be possible to mitigate most of these issues, as the technologies will explain how AI decisions are made in a clear way. XAI assists in making the personal data manipulation responsible and makes the AI systems more open and less likely to generate the risks of algorithmic bias. It is the responsibility of organizations to take initiatives in literature on these issues by formulating clear data protection, transparency and fairness policies in AI applications. In this way, the organizations will be able to reduce the risks of adopting AI and establish trust among their employees and other stakeholders.

### **Implications for HR Practices and Policy**

There are several implications of this study to the HR practices and policy. Firstly, human resource practitioners must learn that the XAI will be needed to increase the transparency, equity, and credibility of the AI-based decisions. Applicability of XAI in the HRs will assist the companies to ensure their AI systems are more moral, accountable, and oriented towards organizational principles. The next primary concern of the HR departments should be to train the HR professionals on the effective usage of the XAI tools to make responsible and open decisions.

In addition, more general ethical implications of AI introduction should also be considered by the HR departments. These include ensuring that the AI systems are ethical, data privacy, and algorithmic fairness. Governmental structure of AI should be established by the companies, a set of rules to be adhered to in HR activities of AI. With such ethical issues in mind, the organizations will be capable of reducing the dangers of discrimination as well as ensure that AI is used to come up with better decisions without encroaching on the rights of employees.

### **Limitations and Future Research**

Although this research offers some important information about the importance of XAI in the HR decision-making process, there are several limitations associated with the research. The major weaknesses include the cross-sectional character of the survey that records data at one particular time. The subsequent studies may address the long-term consequences of XAI implementation upon HR decision-making and employee performance. Moreover, the research was mainly based on the perception of HR professionals on XAI, yet potential future research can delve into the purpose of developing attitudes towards AI-driven HR decisions based on the perceptions of the employees to make informed conclusions about how they feel about it in the long run.

Employee-specific areas such as recruitment, performance assessment, and compensation could be explored by future studies as well to determine the effect of XAI. Furthermore, the research on the technological obstacles to XAI implementation in HR, such as issues with data quality, the creation of algorithms, and the interpretability of their results, would be valuable to learn how the XAI implementation in the HR systems is possible to facilitate.

### **Summary of Findings**

The aim of this paper was to know the applicability of Explainable AI (XAI) in the Human Resource (HR) decision-making process in the perspective of enhancing the degree of transparency, fairness, bias reduction, and trust of the employees in the decisions. The research results are the most important and are as follows:

**XAI Enhances Transparency:** Among the most apparent findings, it can be stated that the application of XAI had an impact on the level of transparency of HR decisions. Prior to the adoption of XAI, the HR professionals asserted that AI-based decisions lack transparency. However, after the implementation of XAI, the transparency perspective of the participants increased notably, as the HR professionals have mentioned that they understand better how the results offered by AI were received.

**XAI Reduces Bias in HR Decisions:** This was the other significant finding that implied that XAI decreased perceived bias in HR decisions. XAI enabled the identification and elimination of bias in the AI models by providing HR professionals with a clearer insight into the direction followed by AI in order to make some decisions. This made HR decisions to be more objective and fair particularly in the process of recruitment and promotion.

**XAI Fosters Employee Trust in AI-Driven HR decisions:** It was also established during the research that employee trust in AI-driven HR decisions was also a significant resource, which increased with the adoption of XAI. Before the advent of XAI, the employees did not trust the application of AI-based decisions but primarily because they are opaque. The employees indicated that after XAI, they were more convinced that the AI driven processes were fair and transparent which is an indicator that XAI is a significant instrument in developing trust on automated decisions.

### **Implications**

The results of this research have a number of valuable implications on HR experts, organizations as well as regulatory agencies. The implications may be used to facilitate successful adoption of XAI into HR practices and make AI technologies responsible and ethical.

### **Regulatory Compliance and Legal Issues:**

The regulatory compliance is becoming topical because AI is gradually being integrated in HR practices. XAI helps companies have a guideline to stick to the legal requirements such as the General Data

Protection Regulation (GDPR) that mandates a clear program of automated decision making. By introducing the XAI, the HR departments will have the opportunity to make their AI systems transparent and responsible and reduce the risk of court proceedings or penalties related to the application of algorithms to make decisions.

### **Improving HR Practices:**

It is expected that the introduction of XAI will bring radical changes to the human resources practice. XAI can be used to assess, audit, and refine models used to make recruitment, performance appraisal, and promotion decisions by making the procedures related to AI-driven decision-making more interpretable and understandable. As a result, it is expected that the implementation of XAI can lead to the improvement of the quality of decisions, the reduction of biased findings, and inclusiveness. In addition, human resources practitioners can be used to have substantive conversations about AI-based determinations with the employees and other stakeholders, hence creating effective communication and cooperation within the organization.

### **Development of a More Inclusive and Fair Workplace:**

XAI can be used to build a more inclusive and fair workplace by minimizing biases and making AI systems transparent and unbiased. Through embracing XAI, companies are able to foster an environment in which staff members are made to believe that they make sound decisions depending on merit and not on unconscious biases or a black box decision-making process. This, subsequently, will be able to boost the level of employee engagement, morale and retention resulting in a better organizational culture.

### **Recommendations**

In accordance with the results of this study, it is possible to formulate some major recommendations that can be given to HR professionals and organizations interested to implement the XAI in the HR practices:

#### **Application of XAI to HR Systems:**

The HR departments need to focus on deploying the XAI technologies into the current HR systems. It involves the choice of AI models, which give explainable results, and makes AI decisions interpretable to the HR professionals and the employees. In order to maximize the possible advantages of XAI, the companies need to invest in the training of HR professionals to learn how to use XAI tools. Moreover, the AI systems should be built in such a way that they are not only interpretable but also audit-friendly, to make all HR decisions fair and transparent.

#### **Breaking the Adoption Barriers:**

Regardless of the advantages of XAI, some organizations might encounter a number of obstacles to adoption, including employee or leadership resistance, lack of awareness on the functionality of XAI, or difficulties in incorporating XAI into the current HR systems. To eliminate such challenges, companies are advised to invest in educational programs and training, which will make HR professionals familiar with the benefits of XAI and available tools. Also, to ensure successful implementation of XAI in HR, leadership buy-in is a necessity. To enable successful adoption of explainability and transparency in AI, HR leaders would need to make a strong case of its value.

#### **Developing a Culture of openness:**

XAI does not only improve transparency in HR decisions, it can also contribute to creating a wider culture of transparency within the organization. Organizations are expected to foster transparency in every process of their functioning through frequently informing employees about the aims, procedures, and results of the AI-based decisions. Owing to transparency in decision making, the level of trust and satisfaction among employees is increased because employees would feel more appreciated and involved once they know how decisions affecting their careers are arrived at.

#### **Developing Ethical Guidelines to the Adoption of XAI:**

Ethical guidelines should be formulated by organizations to use the XAI in the HR. The principles that these guidelines should cover include privacy of data, non-biasness and implementation of AI systems in accordance with the core values of the organization. Furthermore, companies must not violate the rules of

data protection and process the rights of employees in the process. Ethical guidelines will be put in clear terms to reduce the risks of AI adoption and facilitate trust among the employees and other stakeholders.

### Observing and Measuring XAI Effect:

The introduction of XAI is meant to make organizations continuously analyze and evaluate its efficacy on the HR outcomes, such as the enlightenment, reduction of prejudice, and job fulfillment. Audits and feedback loops will be conducted frequently to identify areas of improvement and keep the XAI systems within the organization objectives. Constant evaluations will allow companies to avoid any ethical problems or adverse consequences that may arise due to the use of AI in HR and ensure that XAI is effective and does not contradict ethical standards.

## CONCLUSION

Finally, it has been concluded that Explainable AI (XAI) has a tremendous potential in increasing the level of transparency, minimizing bias and establishing trust in this case of AI-made decisions regarding HR in employees. The results affirm that XAI will be used in HR with clear, objective, and responsible practices of HR that will enhance the engagement and satisfaction rates of the staff.

Although the advantages of XAI are enormous, the challenges related to the ethical concerns and challenges associated with its implementation, the regulatory compliance will be defeated at the cost of the adverse outcomes. Organizations should adopt the proactive attitude to the problems of AI implementation by applying ethical regulations, developing the culture of openness, and training HR specialists to work in the new environment. In such a manner, a more open, transparent, and equitable workplace can be established where AI technologies will be implemented in a responsible manner that can be valuable to the organization and its employees.

With the further development and expansion of the AI technologies, the XAI implementation will be one of the most crucial actions that will enable the AI in HR to become more ethical and build a more trustful and reasonable HR-in-house. XAI will be able to transform the future of the HR because it will be a more objective, ethical, and transparent process within any business.

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