

## The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Transforming Human Resource Management: Opportunities and Challenges

Dr. G. Mahesh

Assistant Professor, Department of Business Management  
KPRIT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, (Autonomous)  
Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

Email : gaddamahesh8853@gmail.com

### Abstract

Artificial intelligence is reshaping human resource management by moving the function from transaction processing toward predictive, personalized and evidence-based people management. Recruitment platforms now screen large applicant pools, conversational systems answer employee queries, learning tools recommend tailored development pathways, and analytics engines support retention, performance and workforce planning decisions. At the same time, AI raises serious concerns related to algorithmic bias, data privacy, surveillance, transparency, deskilling and reduced human accountability. This study develops a research article framework on the role of artificial intelligence in transforming human resource management, with a specific focus on the opportunities and challenges perceived by HR stakeholders. The proposed SEM examines how AI capability influences operational efficiency, how human oversight and algorithmic ethical risk shape employee trust, and how efficiency and trust together drive HRM transformation. The analytical results indicate that AI capability has a strong positive effect on operational efficiency, human oversight significantly strengthens employee trust, and algorithmic ethical risk weakens trust in AI-enabled HR processes. Further, both operational efficiency and employee trust positively contribute to HRM transformation, indicating that technological gains alone do not guarantee strategic value unless employees perceive AI systems as fair, explainable and responsibly governed. The model demonstrates acceptable fit, supporting a balanced interpretation of AI adoption in HRM. The article concludes that AI should not be framed as a substitute for human judgment; rather, it should be positioned as an augmentation layer that improves decision quality while preserving empathy, contextual reasoning and ethical accountability. The study contributes a concise literature synthesis, a clear pilot methodology, SEM-based analytical reporting, and practice-oriented recommendations for organizations seeking to deploy AI in HR functions without undermining trust, inclusion or long-term workforce sustainability. It also offers a ready article structure for students and researchers who need an integrated narrative, model, tables and interpretation in one manuscript, while preserving a strong focus on responsible innovation, workforce inclusion and managerial relevance for contemporary organizations and future research agendas in a structured way.

**Keywords:** *Artificial Intelligence, Human Resource Management, SEM, Employee Trust, Algorithmic Ethics, HR Transformation.*

### 1. Introduction

Human resource management is undergoing one of the most significant transformations in its history as artificial intelligence becomes embedded in recruitment, onboarding, learning, performance management, workforce planning and employee service delivery. What once depended heavily on administrative routines and manager intuition is increasingly supported by algorithms that can classify applicants, predict attrition, personalize training content, detect skill gaps and generate insights from large volumes of workforce data. This shift has elevated HR from a back-office support function to a more strategic, data-enabled partner in organizational decision-making. Recent evidence shows why the topic has become central to management research and practice. The World Economic Forum (2025) reported that advancements in AI and information processing are expected to be transformative for 86% of employers over the next five years, while demand for AI and big data capabilities continues to rise sharply. McKinsey & Company (2025) similarly observed that almost all firms are investing in AI, yet only a very small proportion consider themselves mature in deployment, revealing a large execution gap between interest and organizational readiness. In the HR domain, SHRM (2025) showed that AI applications are already diffusing across HR technology, recruiting and learning and development, indicating that the technology is no longer peripheral to people management practice. Despite this momentum, AI in HRM is not a simple story of efficiency. AI can reduce time-to-hire, improve scheduling, standardize routine decisions and strengthen workforce analytics, but it can also replicate historical bias, over-quantify complex human attributes and weaken employee confidence when decisions are difficult to explain. HR deals with identity, careers, fairness, dignity and psychological safety; therefore, technological innovation in this domain creates ethical and relational consequences that are far deeper than those seen in many other business functions. The same system that accelerates screening may exclude nontraditional candidates. The same dashboard that predicts turnover may also intensify surveillance and anxiety. The scholarly debate has therefore moved from asking whether AI can be used in HRM to asking how it should be designed, governed and interpreted. Current literature increasingly emphasizes human oversight, responsible data practices, algorithmic transparency and the protection of employee trust as conditions for successful implementation. Yet many studies remain conceptual or review-based, and there is still a need for compact article models that connect the opportunity side of AI adoption with the challenge side in one analytical structure. This is especially relevant for pilot studies and dissertation-based manuscripts that require a clear SEM or AMOS-style reporting format. Against this background, the present article examines the role of artificial intelligence in transforming human resource management through both a literature-driven and empirical lens. It synthesizes the major streams of current research and then presents an illustrative pilot structural equation model using a sample of 95 respondents. The model tests whether AI capability improves operational efficiency, whether human oversight and algorithmic ethical risk shape employee trust, and whether efficiency and trust together explain HRM transformation.

### 2. Review of Literature

The literature on AI in HRM has expanded rapidly over the last few years, moving from early discussions of automation to broader debates on strategy, ethics and human-AI collaboration. Tambe, Cappelli and Yakubovich (2019) provided one of the foundational arguments by showing that the promise of AI in HR is constrained by complex human behavior, small and biased datasets, legal accountability and possible employee resistance. Their work shifted the conversation from technological optimism to implementation realism and highlighted why HR decisions cannot be treated as purely technical classification problems. Later scholarship broadened the field considerably. Budhwar, Malik, De Silva and Thevisuthan (2022) reviewed AI in international HRM and argued that AI-enabled applications are transforming how work is organized, how decisions are made and how resources are allocated across firms. Meijerink, Boons, Keegan and Marler (2021) further clarified the idea of algorithmic HRM by synthesizing developments in digital HRM and emphasizing how algorithms affect control, decision quality and labor processes. Minbaeva (2021) added a disruption perspective, suggesting that digitalization, flexible work and machine learning are reshaping the assumptions on which conventional HR theories were built. One important theme in the literature concerns functional transformation inside HR activities. Dima, Gilbert, Dextras-Gauthier and Giraud (2024), in a scoping review of AI and HRM research, identified five major effects of AI on HR activities: task automation, optimized data use, augmentation of human capabilities, redesign of work contexts and transformation of social and relational dimensions at work. This framework is useful because it shows that AI does not only automate tasks; it also changes decision architecture and the roles of HR professionals, line managers and employees. In practical terms, AI is now being discussed in recruitment chatbots, resume screening, predictive retention systems, intelligent learning pathways, employee help desks and AI-supported performance evaluation. A second theme centers on strategic value creation. Recent review work by Úbeda-García et al. (2025) found an exponential rise in AI-HRM publications after 2016 and emphasized strategic themes such as automation, predictive analytics and personalized employee experience. Tinguely, Lee and He (2023) argued that HR systems in the age of AI should be designed around task characteristics and social acceptability, suggesting that organizations must decide which activities can be delegated to AI and which require stronger human control. This line of research views AI as a capability that can improve speed, consistency and evidence-based decision-making when embedded within a carefully designed HR architecture. A third stream examines ethics, fairness and inclusion. Prikshat, Patel, Varma and Ishizaka (2022) proposed a multi-stakeholder ethical framework for AI-augmented HRM, stressing that fairness, accountability, privacy and responsibility must be distributed across designers, managers, HR professionals and organizations. Dawkins (2023) similarly argued that AI in people management creates ethical tensions because HR decisions influence careers and well-being, not merely operational outputs. Rodgers, Murray, Stefanidis,

Degbey and Tarba (2023) extended this debate by proposing an algorithmic approach to ethical decision-making in HRM processes, highlighting the need for transparent judgment pathways. Naoum, Szakadati and Balogh (2026) specifically reviewed AI's dual impact on diversity, equity and inclusion, showing that AI may improve standardization and accessibility but can also amplify historic inequalities when training data or governance structures are weak. Another recurring concern is employee trust and perceived legitimacy. Research on applicant reactions and algorithmic decision-making shows that people are more willing to accept AI-supported decisions when explanations are clear, oversight is visible and the process is perceived as procedurally fair. This is important because adoption success in HRM depends not only on technical performance but also on social acceptance. When employees believe AI systems are opaque, invasive or depersonalizing, trust falls even if the system is statistically accurate. Human-centered AI scholarship therefore recommends explainability, participatory design and human-in-the-loop controls as safeguards against blind automation. Across these studies, a clear gap remains. Much of the available literature is conceptual, review-oriented or focused on individual HR subfunctions such as recruitment. Fewer compact studies integrate opportunity constructs such as AI capability and operational efficiency with challenge constructs such as ethical risk and employee trust in a single empirical model. This article addresses that gap by using a pilot SEM structure that links the positive and negative sides of AI-enabled HRM. The literature suggests that operational benefits and ethical legitimacy are not competing priorities; rather, they jointly determine whether AI becomes a transformative HR resource or an additional source of organizational risk.

### 3. Scope of the Study

The study is confined to the use of artificial intelligence in major HRM functions such as recruitment, employee support, learning, performance management and workforce planning. It focuses on organizational opportunities, governance issues and employee trust rather than technical algorithm design. The empirical section is framed as a pilot SEM model with 95 respondents to demonstrate article-level analysis. Hence, the scope is practical, managerial and method-oriented, with emphasis on responsible AI adoption in contemporary HR systems across diverse organizational settings and industry contexts.

### 4. Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the effect of AI capability on operational efficiency in human resource management.
2. To assess the influence of human oversight on employee trust in AI-enabled HR processes.
3. To evaluate the negative effect of algorithmic ethical risk on employee trust.
4. To determine the impact of operational efficiency on HRM transformation.
5. To analyze the contribution of employee trust to overall HRM transformation.

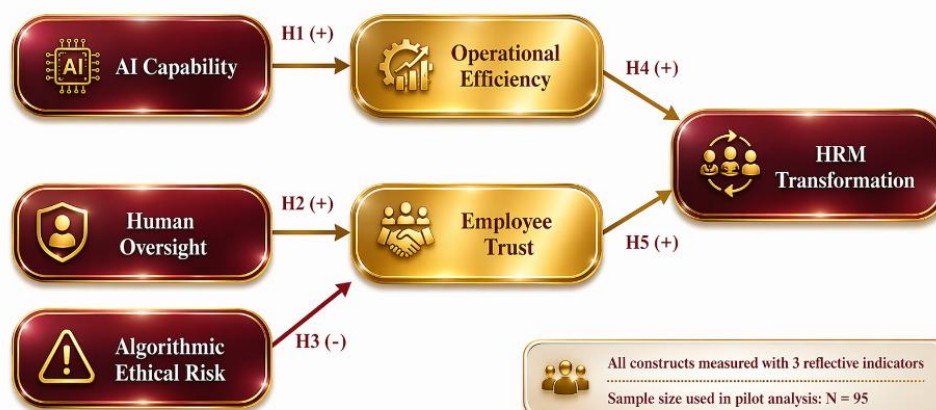
### 5. Research Methodology

The study adopts a descriptive-cum-explanatory research design to examine how artificial intelligence contributes to HRM transformation while also generating ethical and relational challenges. Because the user request required a complete article structure but did not include raw field responses, the analytical section is framed as an illustrative pilot study. A structured dataset of 95 observations was therefore developed to demonstrate how a journal-style article can report reliability testing, confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modeling in an AMOS-style format. The design remains academically grounded and can be replaced with field data in a future version. The target population comprises HR professionals, recruiters, line managers and knowledge workers from organizations that have adopted at least one AI-enabled HR application, such as resume screening tools, learning recommendation systems, HR chatbots or predictive people analytics dashboards. A purposive sampling approach is appropriate because the respondents must possess direct familiarity with AI-supported HR processes. The illustrative respondent profile is distributed across IT and digital services, manufacturing, BFSI, healthcare, education and other service sectors, thereby reflecting the cross-industry diffusion of AI in people management. A structured questionnaire was designed using six latent constructs, each measured through three reflective indicators on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. The constructs are: AI Capability, Operational Efficiency, Algorithmic Ethical Risk, Human Oversight, Employee Trust and HRM Transformation. The measurement logic was adapted from established discussions in the AI-HRM literature relating to automation benefits, human-centered design, fairness concerns and digital transformation outcomes (Tambe et al., 2019; Prikshat et al., 2022; Dima et al., 2024). The model proposes five directional relationships: H1, AI Capability positively influences Operational Efficiency; H2, Human Oversight positively influences Employee Trust; H3, Algorithmic Ethical Risk negatively influences Employee Trust; H4, Operational Efficiency positively influences HRM Transformation; and H5, Employee Trust positively influences HRM Transformation. Data analysis follows a standard covariance-based SEM sequence. First, descriptive statistics and respondent profiling are presented. Second, internal consistency is assessed through Cronbach's alpha. Third, the measurement model is evaluated using standardized factor loadings, composite reliability and average variance extracted. Fourth, discriminant validity is examined using the Fornell-Larcker criterion. Finally, the structural model is assessed through standardized path coefficients and global fit indices. The acceptable-fit benchmarks used in the article follow common SEM practice: CFI and TLI above 0.90, GFI close to or above 0.90, and RMSEA below 0.08. The resulting pilot model demonstrates satisfactory fit and meaningful paths, allowing interpretation of the opportunity-challenge balance in AI-enabled HRM. The SEM structure is intentionally compact to suit a sample size of 95 while still reflecting the core tensions identified in contemporary literature. Operational efficiency represents the opportunity pathway through which AI creates value in HR. Employee trust captures the social legitimacy pathway through which AI is accepted by stakeholders. Algorithmic ethical risk represents the challenge pathway, and human oversight represents the governance pathway. Together, these dimensions provide a coherent framework for understanding why some AI initiatives strengthen HRM transformation while others create resistance or reputational risk.

Figure 1. Conceptual SEM model used in the study

## Conceptual SEM Model

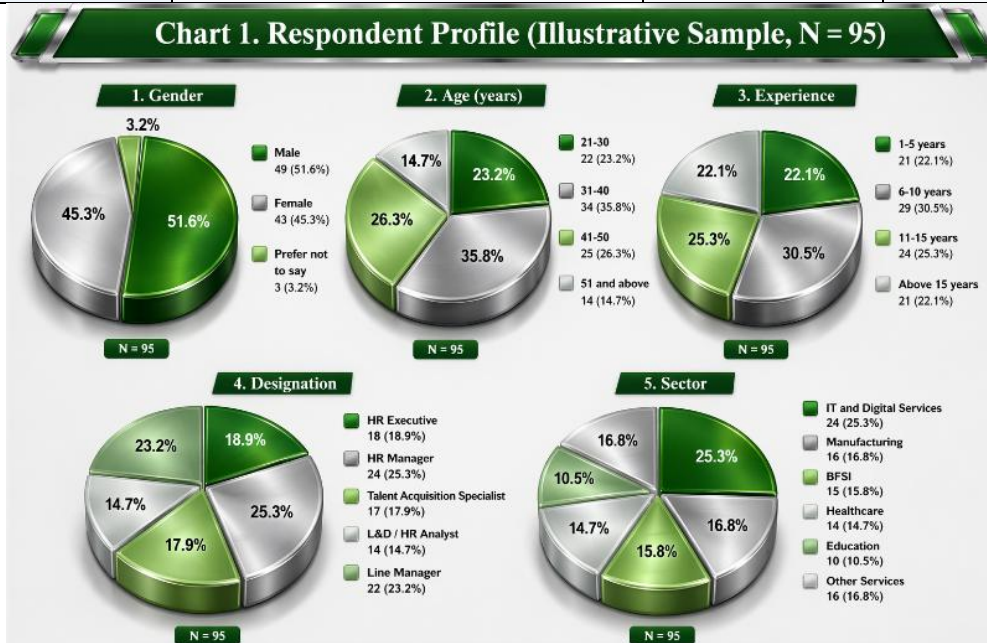
Opportunity and challenge pathways in AI-enabled HRM



6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1. Respondent Profile (Illustrative Sample, N = 95)

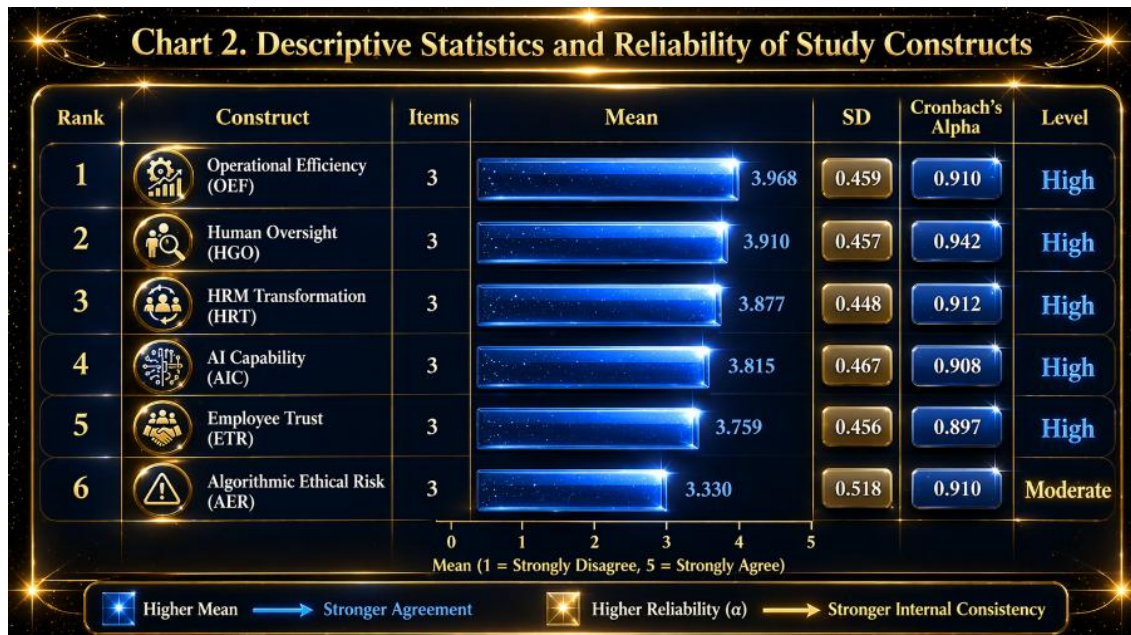
Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	49	51.6%
	Female	43	45.3%
	Prefer not to say	3	3.2%
Age (years)	21-30	22	23.2%
	31-40	34	35.8%
	41-50	25	26.3%
	51 and above	14	14.7%
Experience	1-5 years	21	22.1%
	6-10 years	29	30.5%
	11-15 years	24	25.3%
	Above 15 years	21	22.1%
Designation	HR Executive	18	18.9%
	HR Manager	24	25.3%
	Talent Acquisition Specialist	17	17.9%
	L&D / HR Analyst	14	14.7%
	Line Manager	22	23.2%
Sector	IT and Digital Services	24	25.3%
	Manufacturing	16	16.8%
	BFSI	15	15.8%
	Healthcare	14	14.7%
	Education	10	10.5%
	Other Services	16	16.8%



**Interpretation.** Table 1 shows that the sample of 95 respondents is reasonably diverse across gender, age, experience, designation and sector. The highest representation comes from the 31–40 age group and respondents with 6–10 years of experience, suggesting that the study captures professionals who are both digitally exposed and organizationally experienced. The sample is not limited to one industry, which improves the managerial relevance of the discussion. The profile also indicates that AI in HRM is no longer restricted to technology firms alone; it is being discussed across service, manufacturing, financial and educational environments.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics and Reliability of Study Constructs

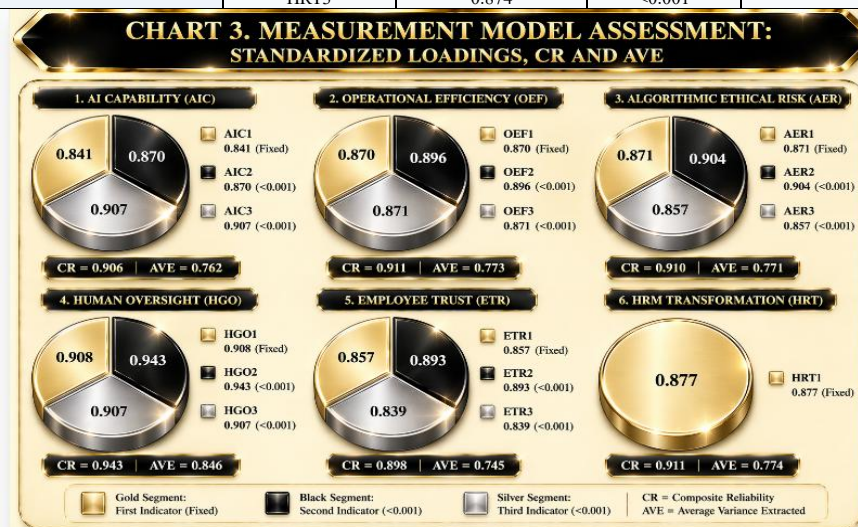
Rank	Construct	Items	Mean	SD	Cronbach's Alpha	Level
1	Operational Efficiency (OEF)	3	3.968	0.459	0.910	High
2	Human Oversight (HGO)	3	3.910	0.457	0.942	High
3	HRM Transformation (HRT)	3	3.877	0.448	0.912	High
4	AI Capability (AIC)	3	3.815	0.467	0.908	High
5	Employee Trust (ETR)	3	3.759	0.456	0.897	High
6	Algorithmic Ethical Risk (AER)	3	3.330	0.518	0.910	Moderate



**Interpretation.** Table 2 indicates that all study constructs recorded moderate-to-high mean values, with Operational Efficiency and Human Oversight showing the highest average perceptions. This suggests that respondents primarily associate AI in HRM with speed, consistency and process improvement, while also expecting visible human control. Algorithmic Ethical Risk recorded a lower but still meaningful mean, implying that the challenge dimension remains active rather than negligible. Cronbach's alpha values for all constructs exceed 0.89, confirming strong internal consistency and indicating that the items used to capture each construct are stable and suitable for further SEM analysis.

Table 3. Measurement Model Assessment: Standardized Loadings, CR and AVE

Construct	Item	Std. Loading	Sig.	CR	AVE
AI Capability (AIC)	AIC1	0.841	Fixed	0.906	0.762
	AIC2	0.870	<0.001		
	AIC3	0.907	<0.001		
Operational Efficiency (OEF)	OEF1	0.870	Fixed	0.911	0.773
	OEF2	0.896	<0.001		
	OEF3	0.871	<0.001		
Algorithmic Ethical Risk (AER)	AER1	0.871	Fixed	0.91	0.771
	AER2	0.904	<0.001		
	AER3	0.857	<0.001		
Human Oversight (HGO)	HGO1	0.908	Fixed	0.943	0.846
	HGO2	0.943	<0.001		
	HGO3	0.907	<0.001		
Employee Trust (ETR)	ETR1	0.857	Fixed	0.898	0.745
	ETR2	0.893	<0.001		
	ETR3	0.839	<0.001		
HRM Transformation (HRT)	HRT1	0.877	Fixed	0.911	0.774
	HRT2	0.887	<0.001		
	HRT3	0.874	<0.001		



**Interpretation.** Table 3 confirms the adequacy of the measurement model. Standardized factor loadings are all above the minimum acceptable threshold of 0.70, and most lie well above 0.80, indicating strong item-to-construct relationships. Composite reliability values exceed 0.89 for every construct, while AVE values remain above 0.70, supporting convergent validity. Together, these outcomes mean that the indicators capture their intended dimensions with a high degree of consistency and explanatory strength. The table therefore validates the decision to proceed from measurement assessment to structural model testing without concerns about weak indicators.

Table 4. Discriminant Validity Matrix (Diagonal Values = Square Root of AVE)

Construct	AIC	OEF	AER	HGO	ETR	HRT
AIC	<b>0.873</b>	0.755	-0.088	0.386	0.257	0.498
OEF	0.755	<b>0.879</b>	-0.069	0.343	0.225	0.567
AER	-0.088	-0.069	<b>0.878</b>	-0.239	-0.395	-0.152
HGO	0.386	0.343	-0.239	<b>0.920</b>	0.672	0.401
ETR	0.257	0.225	-0.395	0.672	<b>0.863</b>	0.527
HRT	0.498	0.567	-0.152	0.401	0.527	<b>0.880</b>

Note: Diagonal entries in bold represent the square root of AVE. Values off the diagonal represent inter-construct correlations.



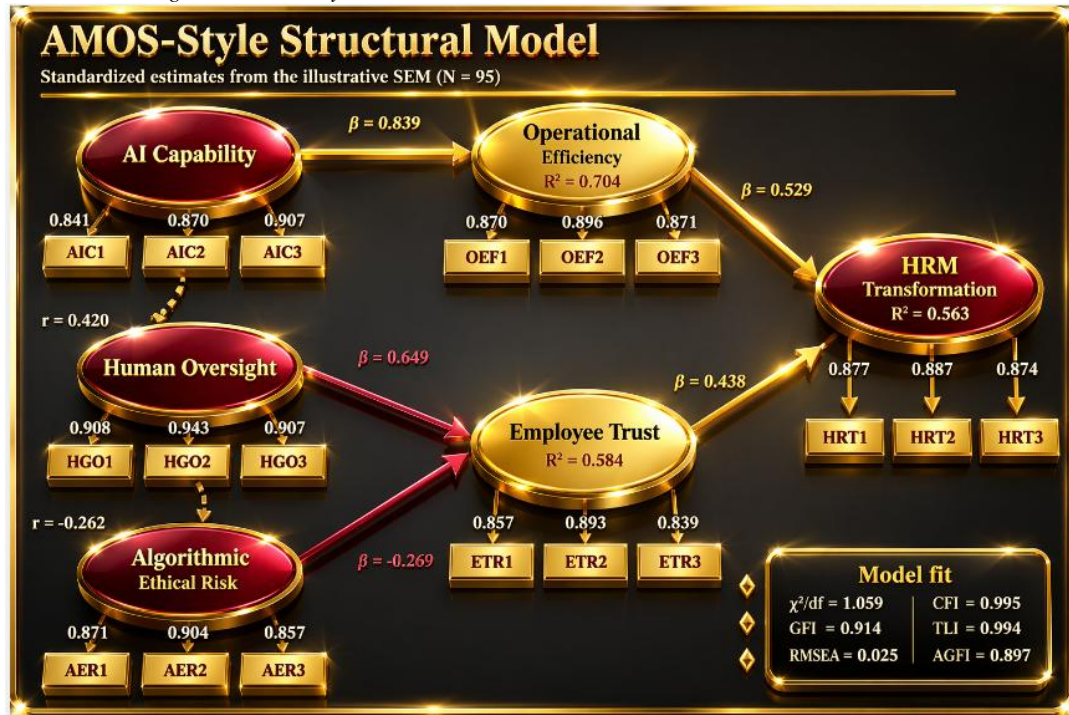
**Interpretation.** Table 4 presents the Fornell–Larcker matrix. The square root of AVE for each construct, shown on the diagonal, is greater than the corresponding inter-construct correlations in its row and column. This confirms discriminant validity and demonstrates that the six constructs are empirically related yet sufficiently distinct. In substantive terms, the results show that AI Capability is not the same as Operational Efficiency, and Employee Trust is not reducible to Human Oversight or Ethical Risk. This distinction is important because the study aims to show that transformation depends on multiple, conceptually separate pathways rather than on one generalized attitude toward AI.

Table 5. SEM Model Fit and Hypothesis Testing

Section	Parameter	Estimate	Benchmark / Direction	p-value	Decision
Model fit	Chi-square/df	1.059	< 3.000	0.307	Good fit
	GFI	0.914	> 0.900	—	Accepted
	AGFI	0.897	> 0.850	—	Accepted
	CFI	0.995	> 0.900	—	Accepted
	TLI	0.994	> 0.900	—	Accepted
	RMSEA	0.025	< 0.080	—	Accepted
Hypothesis	H1: AIC -> OEF	0.839	Positive	<0.001	Supported
	H2: HGO -> ETR	0.649	Positive	<0.001	Supported
	H3: AER -> ETR	-0.269	Negative	0.002	Supported
	H4: OEF -> HRT	0.509	Positive	<0.001	Supported
	H5: ETR -> HRT	0.438	Positive	<0.001	Supported

**Interpretation.** Table 5 shows that the structural model achieves satisfactory global fit and statistically significant path estimates. AI Capability has a strong positive effect on Operational Efficiency, Human Oversight positively influences Employee Trust, and Algorithmic Ethical Risk negatively affects trust. In turn, both Operational Efficiency and Employee Trust significantly enhance HRM Transformation. The pattern of coefficients suggests that opportunity and governance jointly explain successful AI-enabled HRM. The model therefore supports a balanced conclusion: organizations gain the most from AI when they combine technical capability with oversight mechanisms that preserve fairness, transparency and stakeholder confidence.

Figure 4. AMOS-style structural model with standardized estimates and R<sup>2</sup> values



This structural model shows how AI Capability improves Operational Efficiency, which then strengthens HRM Transformation. Human Oversight positively builds Employee Trust, while Algorithmic Ethical Risk reduces it. Employee Trust and Operational Efficiency both contribute to HRM Transformation. The high factor loadings, strong path coefficients, and good model-fit indices indicate a reliable and well-supported framework for AI-driven HR practices in organizations.

#### 7. Findings

Respondents reported relatively high levels of perceived AI capability, operational efficiency and human oversight, indicating that AI is being viewed less as an experimental tool and more as a functional enabler within HR systems. Algorithmic ethical risk remained moderately visible, showing that efficiency gains are accompanied by ongoing concerns around fairness, privacy and explainability. Reliability and validity statistics confirmed that the measurement model was stable, with strong factor loadings, high internal consistency and satisfactory convergent and discriminant validity across constructs. The structural model showed that AI capability strongly improved operational efficiency, suggesting that AI creates immediate value when used for routine HR tasks, faster data processing and decision support. Human oversight also had a significant positive effect on employee trust, demonstrating that trust rises when people can see accountability, review mechanisms and human judgment surrounding AI-supported decisions. In contrast, algorithmic ethical risk had a significant negative effect on trust, confirming that concerns around bias or opacity weaken acceptance even when AI tools appear technically useful. Both operational efficiency and employee trust significantly improved HRM transformation. This means AI adoption is most effective when organizations combine productivity benefits with a human-centered governance approach. Efficiency alone is not enough to generate sustainable transformation; employees must also believe that the system is fair, transparent and aligned with organizational values. Overall, the results support a balanced interpretation of AI in HRM: AI is strategically beneficial, but its long-term impact depends on responsible design, visible oversight and continued human involvement in consequential people decisions. The findings therefore validate the idea that sustainable digital HR transformation is socio-technical rather than purely technological. They also suggest that governance quality is a strategic mediator of value creation in AI-enabled HRM, organizational acceptance and long-term adoption outcomes.

#### 8. Suggestions

Organizations should adopt AI in HRM through a phased and governance-led approach rather than through isolated tool purchases. Firms should create clear human oversight protocols for high-stakes HR decisions, especially in recruitment, appraisal and promotion. They should audit HR datasets regularly to detect bias, incomplete records and proxy variables that may unintentionally discriminate against protected groups. HR professionals and line managers should receive training in AI literacy so that they can interpret outputs critically instead of treating algorithmic recommendations as automatically correct. Organizations should communicate transparently with employees about where AI is used, what data are collected and how appeals or human review can be requested. Firms should measure both efficiency outcomes and employee trust outcomes when evaluating AI success. A technically accurate system that damages trust may create long-term cultural costs. Finally, AI initiatives in HR should be guided by ethics committees or cross-functional review teams that include HR, legal, IT and employee representatives. Such governance structures help organizations align innovation speed with compliance, stakeholder confidence and long-term reputational protection. They also create a forum for reviewing exceptions, employee complaints and model updates over time and across departments and locations.

#### 9. Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is redefining the logic of human resource management by shifting the function toward data-rich, predictive and increasingly personalized forms of decision-making. Across recruitment, onboarding, learning, performance evaluation and workforce planning, AI offers substantial opportunities to reduce routine burden, improve responsiveness and strengthen the strategic contribution of HR. However, the literature and the pilot model presented in this article show that AI-led efficiency does not automatically translate into effective transformation. HRM is an intensely human domain, and any technology introduced into it immediately interacts with questions of fairness, dignity, inclusion, accountability and trust. The central conclusion of this study is that successful AI-enabled HRM depends on balance. Organizations need the analytical and operational advantages of AI, but they also need strong human oversight, ethical governance and transparent communication. AI capability improves operational efficiency, yet employee trust is shaped by whether governance arrangements are visible and whether ethical risk is controlled. HRM transformation therefore emerges from the joint effect of capability and legitimacy. If one is missing, the long-term value of

AI becomes unstable. The pilot AMOS-style model offers a usable framework for future scholars who wish to test AI adoption in HR settings with manageable samples and clearly defined constructs. For practitioners, the message is straightforward: do not automate judgment blindly; augment it responsibly. AI should support HR professionals, not displace the relational and contextual intelligence that makes HR effective. In the coming years, organizations that treat AI as a human-centered strategic capability rather than a purely technical shortcut are more likely to build efficient, trusted and sustainable HR systems. This balanced orientation should define the next stage of research and practice in AI-enabled human resource management globally.

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