

Development Of Digital-Era Human Resource Management Techniques: A Review-Based Study

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ABSTRACT

This literature review work aims to analyze the development and significance of Digital HRM in international and Indian settings. Changes in technology have transfigured the HRM landscape as new technologies are integrated into the process to improve effectiveness, rationalization, and employee participation. It integrates the literature from well-known scholarly outlets, focusing on critical areas like recruitment and staff acquisition, employee induction, performance management, staff motivation, learning, development and training, and HR measurement and analytics. In line with this, this paper's review of the literature points to digital HRM as encompassing strategies informed by technologies to support the enhancement of organizational processes and outcomes based on the role of HR. The international experience confirms the usage of digital solutions in efficient workforce management, improving HR services, and integrating prognostic analytics for strategy development. On the other hand, among literature discusses more the prospects and constraints that Indian organizations encounter while implementing digital HRM practices, especially in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Most of the findings regarding changes like HRM centre on the notion that digitalization has dramatically altered the roles and responsibilities of the profession and has required HR professionals to become strategic business partners equipped to manage digital change and workforce issues within the context of digital environments. The review also highlights the imperative competencies in HRM that point towards using technology appropriately, namely data analytics, integration of technology and positioning of technology. Concerning the study's strengths, the paper reveals the advantages of adopting digital HRM, including operational efficiency and employee satisfaction. However, there are certain limitations of the study about regional bias, limitations about method, and the ever-evolving nature of technology advancements. The research horizon for digital HRM in the future includes long-term outcomes, cross-country comparisons, and a qualitative examination of digital technologies' social and cultural impacts on HR activities, employees' health, and organizational management. Therefore, this paper advances a systematic review of current knowledge regarding digital-era HRM practices and directions for future research on enhancing the fit and efficacy of HR strategies for organizations operating in a world characterized by digitization.

KEYWORDS

Human resources; digital era; digital human resources; human resources development; digital evolution

INTRODUCTION

Human Resource Management (HRM) has evolved tremendously, and technology has influenced chiefly recent changes. While organizations strive to manage dynamic business environments, the responsibilities of the HRM moved beyond the mechanistic duties to firmly establish the strategic components that use technology and big data. The evolution of the Information Age has impacted the practices of HRM through the use of new techniques in the recruitment and training, appraisal and motivation of employees. To this effect, this paper looks to understand how adopting new technologies has impacted the discipline of HRM and organizational performance (Berber et al., 2018; Fenech et al., 2019). Digital technology has been adopted in all business spheres, making it easier for organizations to manage their people resources by applying efficient and effective HRM practices. The primary administrative functions, which include recruitment, performance appraisal and training, have been revolutionized by providing appropriate technology. These technologies help the effective functioning of HR professionals, minimize paperwork, and help make decisions based on outdated information or intuition. For instance, using AI in recruitment, the way organizations search for talent and select has been informed by using these two tools to make the process fast and less subjective. Besides, the new opportunities provided by the digital age have shifted the focus to new employee engagement and development paradigms. With the help of virtual training programs, online learning platforms, and digital performance management systems, employees are offered flexible and customized training programs. These tools not only elevate the skills and competencies of the employee but also escalate the satisfaction level (Berber et al., 2018; Fenech et al., 2019). The general change in the work environment and recent push towards remote work due to the COVID-19 crisis has emphasized the continued need for the effective use of digital tools in implementing Human Resource Management.

While analyzing the development of HRM for the digital age, one has to pose the problem of personnel protection, the role of ethical issues, and the influence of technology on people-oriented HR (Bloom & Bengtsson, 2017; Fenech et al., 2019). Thus, we observe that digital tools present advantages but also hurdles in data safety for organizations, employees' rights, and algorithmic prejudice.

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Amid these difficulties, there is a need for HR professionals to manage both the introduction of new technologies into organizations and potential ethical implications and human-centred approaches to HRM. In conclusion, one may state that the trends observed in the digital age have a considerable impact on the sphere of Human Resource Management as well, as the essential shifts in the organization of its activities and its perception can be mentioned (Berber et al., 2018; Pantelidis, 2019). Consequently, this paper offers a bibliographic literature review of technological developments, the challenges they pose and opportunities for the HRM profession and organizations, and the future trends and directions of the HRM field. The paper aims to improve comprehension of the ever-changing relationship between technology and human resource management in today's working environment.

METHODOLOGY

Human resource management digitalization is a relatively newly emerging field that examines implementing information technology solutions into HR activities. This paper discusses the facts and figures of prior studies on the subject matter and reviews empirical works, primarily concerning India.

Literature Search and Selection:

To find papers that detailed the application of the new generation techniques of the digital era to HLRA, a search strategy was employed to source literature from academic databases, journals, books, and reports. Regarding criteria, the authors underscored the methodological aspects of the study, evidence-based data, and the instruments and indices involved in digital HR practices. By doing so, this approach guarantees a broad generalization of the research concerns and analyses of the development and effects of IT on HRM.

Categorization of Studies:

As observed in the above section, the identified literature was grouped into two categories: International and Indian studies. This classification helped to separate worldwide tendencies and country-specific changes in the sphere of digital HRM. Global articles gave an extensive view of the overall adoption and the use of technology in the execution of HR processes, while the Indian articles gave a specific regional outlook of the hurdles and developments in India.

Data Extraction and Synthesis:

Descriptive data from sources, including authors, year of publication, participants, region of focus and specific findings, were obtained from the studies. Thus, the systematic extraction permitted us to understand the state of the art of digital HRM, the methods used, and the instruments for the assessment. Quantitative data gave a clear picture of the trends, advantages, and issues with digital HR practices.

Critical Evaluation:

Thus, analyzing significant, methodologically sound studies permitted us to determine further research directions. This assessment also assisted in establishing which area of digital HRM needs additional holistic investigations and gave suggestions on the efficiency of various digital HR tools and trends. The idea was to provide a fair and impartial analysis of the literature review to indicate both the insight achieved and the further opportunities for development.

Presentation of Results:

The study's findings were given in the form of a narrative report of the existing literature from the global context as well as from the Indian context. It was even a positive sign that stressed the role of governmental and non-governmental publications in presenting novelty in this field and how digital HRM has adopted profound techniques and approaches. Such an approach helped establish the critical points underlined in the literature and the newly discovered essential features and innovative approaches.

Conclusion:

Using this method, the review sought to identify the advances and the research lacunas regarding digital HRM. The reviewed studies addressed theoretical and methodological advancements, issues and opportunities for the HR profession, and outcomes of digital innovations in HRM. This approach gave a global and Indian picture of the current status of digital HRM through multiple data sources. Therefore, the present literature review comprehensively analyses the highly critical papers and empirical research on HRM practices in the digital age, especially regarding methodological and empirical strength. The study outlines the systematic revision in the area, establishes what remains of significance in future research, and clarifies what benchmarks have been reached but still require continuous improvement in integrating Digital Technologies into modern practices of HRM, especially in the Indian environment.

ANALYSING RELEVANT LITERATURE

Digital technologies' application in human resource management practices has dramatically impacted the field by providing new approaches, improving performance, and more effective solutions. This literature review assesses the literature regarding the generation of digital-era HRM techniques, looking at the descriptions of such techniques, the

classification of the techniques, and the Indian/Globe context in which the techniques have been studied. Digital-era HRM techniques refer to the various tools and technologies that have been identified to enhance the existing practices of HRM. Such techniques include adopting the Human Resource Information System in matters relating to recruitment, performance management, mutual relations between employees and the controller, and other trends associated with data analysis. The primary purpose of digital HRM is to improve general HRM activities, improve the employees' experience and make critical decisions based on data analysis.

Recruitment and Onboarding: The social media and similar methods are popular among organizations for posting jobs and filtering and reviewing applications. Virtual onboarding procedures support new employees' initial socialization, where they are assimilated into the company virtually.

Performance Management: The use of digital tools facilitates the implementation of real-time feedback and performance tracking besides going. Performance management systems (PMS) provide a way for the dynamic control and assessment of the employee's performance to update the organizational performance improvement culture.

Employee Engagement: Modern technologies like the ones that imply the use of an employee engagement survey tool, feedback tools, and collaborative communicational applications improve the atmosphere in the workplace. Appropriate tools such as friendly intranets and collaboration software facilitate remote working and togetherness so that the employees are not depressed.

Learning and Development: Richer outcome and result-oriented options like e-learning and learning management systems (LMS) make training and development resources available to the employees. They enhance job training and development to ensure that the employees are up-to-date with the latest developments in their fields.

HR Analytics: An analytics solution is applied to the human resource data to discover patterns and draw proper conclusions. Thus, predictive analytics can be used in workforce planning and uncovering problems that are unresolved before the situation deteriorates (Fenech et al., 2019).

INDIAN VIEWPOINT

Some of the past studies that were undertaken to analyze the adoption and use of different digital HRM techniques include some comparative studies done on Indian firms where it is constructive to understand the type of problems and prospects those Indian firms are confronting.

Adoption in Indian SMEs: A few studies have confirmed that today's SMEs in India are integrating digital HR tools to improve their HR facilities. Research also confirms that adopting digital HRM assists SMEs in recruitment and selection, engagement and retention, and performance management.

Impact on Employee Experience: Numerous Indian research studies focus on the impact of digital HRM elements on employees. The research evidence indicated that technology positively impacts relationships, has made access to services more accessible, and positively impacts employee satisfaction.

Challenges in Implementation: The study outlines some of the issues that organizations in India encounter, such as resistance to change, digital skills, and infrastructure constraints. Literature also stresses the contingencies required to facilitate the effective adoption of the systems of digital HRM (Fenech et al., 2019; Rana & Sharma, 2019; Turulja & Bajgorić, 2016; Tripathi & Singh, 2017).

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Worldwide, there is a rich body of research on the use of digital tools in implementing HRM practices, their advantages, drawbacks, and recommendations.

Global Trends: The research shows that organizations from all over the globe are using digital HR tools to improve their functionality and decision-making processes. It is noted that HR analytics will continue to be vital, and vendor-provided recruitment services and AI tools alongside virtual collaboration instruments will become increasingly significant.

Benefits: As per global studies, digital human resource management has advantages like the high degree of accuracy observed in the number of HR processes, maximum level of engagement force, improved data analytics, and many more. This paper reveals that the practical application of digital technologies can minimize administrative tasks and contribute to compelling HR endeavours.

Challenges and Best Practices: Several authors state the problems that, from their experience and research, are characteristic of implementing digital HRM, including data privacy, integration and digital competencies. The strategies include availing training, exercising fog protection, and gradually installing LMS.

From the literature relating to digital-era HRM practices, one identifies the radical changes brought about by digital tools in HRM strategies. Research carried out in India and internationally has found that digitalization of HRM has advantages such as increased HRM effectiveness, positive outcomes on organization employee relations, and analytics amongst

others. Nevertheless, some problems must be solved to make the implementation possible: managers' and employees' resistance to change, lack of necessary skills, and inadequate infrastructure. This way, it is possible to elaborate on the factors that affect the digital transformation of HRM and how they can use the latter with the help of digital tools to achieve strategic goals. In conclusion, it brings the classification of the selected critical papers and empirical studies for reviews emphasizing the methodological issue and empirical findings of digital-era HRM techniques. It shows the emerging trends, enlargement and reduction in areas where there is a lack of significant change and then points out the areas of insights for future research on the adoption of digital technologies in HR practices in India and other countries in future (Berber et al., 2018; Rana & Sharma, 2019; Turulja & Bajgorić, 2016; Thite, 2016).

Table 1 Findings from the Review

Author	Year	Findings
Pieriegud	2016	Digitalization is driven by the widespread adoption of digital technology, which impacts societal structures and interactions.
Kagermann	2015	Defines digitalization as integrating people and things through ICT, blurring boundaries between real and virtual worlds.
Brennen & Kreiss	2016	Digitalization involves organizations' increased use of digital technologies, leading to substantial restructuring.
Molotkova et al.	2019	Digital technologies aim to enhance product/service quality and streamline communication within and outside organizations for greater efficiency.
DiRomualdo et al.	2018	Digital transformation facilitates fundamental changes in product/service delivery, stakeholder interactions, and business value creation.
Oracle & Research Now SSI	2018	Emphasizes digital transformation's impact on changing employee, customer, and partner expectations in the business environment.
Fenech et al.	2019	Digital transformation drives businesses' structural, operational, and process changes by adopting new technologies.
Mazzone	2014	Describes digital transformation occurring strategically and tactically, reshaping business models and methodologies.
Ulrich & Dulebohn	2015	HR's role evolves to strategically manage talent, skills development, and maintain competitive advantage amidst digital changes.
Stephan et al.	2016	Digital HR integrates SMAC technologies to automate HR processes, improve decision-making, and enhance productivity.
Galgali	2017	Focuses on modernizing HR functions through real-time platforms, mobile-first apps, and analytics for better talent management and HR efficiency.
Crummenerl et al.	2018	Identifies critical HR roles (e.g., Network Connector, Data Analyst) essential for addressing automation and digital transformation challenges.
Accenture	2017	It highlights emerging HR roles like social integrator and talent intelligence advocate, which are critical for future HR strategies in digital environments.
Ulrich et al.	2016	Identifies new HR competencies crucial in the digital era, such as Analytics Designer, Technology Integrator, and Strategic Positioner.

SUMMARY OF REVIEW

The various summarized studies reviewed herein connote the ever-shifting face of digitalization in enhancing HRM practices cutting across all the specified dimensions. Starting with the definitions made by Pieriegud (2016) and Kagermann (2015), digitalization is defined as a process which includes such digital elements in society and enterprises,

thus changing the previous division between offline and online environments. Brennen and Kreiss (2016), Molotkova et al. (2019), and DiRomualdo et al. (2018) investigate the technological consequences of digital strategies in organizations. They emphasize its ability to reconfigure processes, improve the quality of goods and services, and make changes in relations with stakeholders, all of which lead to the emergence of new business value and more opportunities to build competitive advantage. More precisely, the field of HRM, Ulrich & Dulebohn (2015) stresses the new strategic position of human resources directors regarding digital change. They emphasize how competitor HR is present regarding talent acquisition, development and retention to maintain organizational competence for existing technologies. Digitalization of HR practices mentioned by Stephan et al. (2016) and Galgali (2017) reveal how social, mobile, analytics, and cloud (SMAC) technologies are implemented to support HR activities and decisions along with the optimization of the workforce. These innovations are all about improving the efficiency and convenience of working life while integrating the delivery of HR services in 'real-time'. Crummenerl et al. (2018) and Accenture (2017) highlighted new fundamental HR occupations, such as Network Connector, Data Analyst, Social Integrator, and Talent Intelligence Advocate. These roles emphasize the necessity of employing big data and focusing on the organization's people to respond to new business environments created by digital transformations. Ulrich et al. (2016) support this by establishing competencies that apply to HR professionals in the digital age, including analytical, positional, and technological. These competencies align with the changes in expectations put on the line of HR leaders to manage the difficulties caused by digital changes.

In sum, the literature reviewed highlights the need for organizations to adopt and integrate digital HRM strategies to effectively and proactively adapt to the current and future global business environment. It focuses on the impact of a digital environment and technologies in the organization when it comes to the issue of creating changes and experimenting with new outstanding, developing and improving the roles and tasks of HR and adapting to the extant brave and new world as well.

DISCUSSION

This article depicts how digital-era human resource management (HRM) shows how digital technologies have revolutionized the different aspects of the practices of organizations. Due to this active adoption of digital tools by organizations, organizations are systematically redesigning HRM strategies to optimize decision-making and use of technologies to improve employee experience. Thus, Digital HRM covers a broad spread of strategies to transform conventional HR approaches. Some of these are recruitment and onboarding, where HR practitioners use social media and ATS to ease the hiring processes and conduct remote onboarding to newly joined employees. This increases the speed of the recruitment processes and the first phase of system integration and acculturation of newly hired experts (Molotov et al., 2019). Digitalization has also been closely associated with changes in performance management. Today's PMS allow performance feedback, goals, and constant performance evaluations in real-time. These systems not only raise employers' performance but also create a culture of constant employee feedback and training (Di Romualdo et al., 2018).

Further, digital tools increase employee engagement through platforms that provide regular feedback, functioning communication channels, and access to HR services. In this way, implementing workforce connection and inclusion practices would increase the organizational morale, satisfaction and retention level (Stephan et al., 2016). Education and its acquisition process have also changed with the expansion of technologies. IT-based online learning vendors and LMS offer employees convenient, customized, state-of-the-art training to ensure they are well-maintained and up-to-date in their fields (Galgali, 2017). Thus, another vital perspective of digital HRM is that of HR analytics as its primary component. Through big data and workforce analytics, one can obtain insight into workforce data, metrics, and activity statistics for consequent further workforce strategic planning and decision-making (Ulrich et al., 2016). In the context of Indian SMEs, different researches show a tendency towards a more extensive usage of digital HRM practices because of the need for enhancements in recruiting, retaining employees, and managing their performance. However, some of the issues that impact the effective use of digital HRM strategies in India are resistance to change, digital competency, and infrastructure (Accenture, 2017). Around the world, business entities are using technological solutions in HRM to increase the effectiveness of organizational activities, improve the functioning of the HR department, and respond to the evolving business environments. As it has been pointed out, trends suggest that future organizations are likely to continue deploying HR analytics, Artificial Intelligence recruitment tools and virtual platforms for collaboration to drive their organizations' future needs and new challenges that may emerge (Brennen & Kreiss, 2016; Fenech et al., 2019).

Nevertheless, some disadvantages are associated with using a digital approach to HRM, such as issues relevant to data protection, integration issues and necessary professional development of HR managers in terms of digital literacy (Oracle & Research Now SSI, 2018; Mazzone, 2014). Thus, the literature shows that digital technologies have the potential to revolutionize the conduct of HRM internationally and in India, and their impact is far-reaching. The utilization of digital technological tools in developmental approaches to HRM enables organizations to become more competitive and gain flexibility in preparing for the increasing digitalization of the business world and its talent acquisition and retention processes. Future research should identify the factors hindering the implementation of identified strategies and investigate how digital technologies could be leveraged to enhance the effectiveness of HRM and organizational performance in the digital age.

CONCLUSION

Altogether, new trends in business human resource management in the digital age result from evolved organizational practices across the globe. Technology has impacted almost all areas of recruitment, organizational development, HR

management, appraisal, rewards and bonuses, and performance evaluation. Some of these innovations improve the operation of organizations where they are applied, as well as the employees' decision-making and satisfaction. Thus, despite the numerous advantages of digital HRM, organizations experience difficulties like data privacy issues, integration issues, and the requirement to enhance the HR professionals' skills. Thus, a continuation of the implementation of the changes toward the digital HRM concepts will be pertinent for organizations that strive to sustain competitive advantage and flexibility in the evolving business environments.

IMPLICATIONS

Thus, the theoretical and practical implications of the study concern the major themes of human resource management, especially in the unfolding digital age, which are manifold and central to theory and practice in organizational management. Here are detailed implications based on the findings:

Enhanced HR Effectiveness: The paper review shows that implementing digital HRM strategies dramatically improves the efficiency of HRM across multiple functions. Systems like HRIS, PMS, and analytical tools facilitate and minimize workload, allowing HR professionals to concentrate on more value-added tasks and activities such as talent management and OD.

Improvement in Employee Experience: The present technological advances mark the primary dependent variables that underlie the general function of improving the experience of Human Resources Management. Solutions for recruiting and training, appraisals, and learning enablement help make a workplace and work experience more prosperous and more fulfilling. This makes employees happier with their jobs, as they are more productive, improving the retention level.

Strategic Decision-Making: The combination of HR analytics and prediction techniques enables the authorities to work more intelligently. In that regard, the understanding procured from AH and ML enhances the workforce planning process, talent deficits, trend anticipation, and HR strategy aligned with the organizational objectives.

Global and Local Contexts: Lastly, the paper shows that it is crucial to consider the international trends and the context in which organizations are located when applying digital HRM techniques. Analyzing international and domestic sources can be helpful, or global studies can give information on global best practices and modern technologies, while local studies, like those concerning Indian SMEs, demonstrate specific issues and opportunities peculiar to certain areas. It is essential to obtain this dual perspective to create targeted strategies within the framework of HRM that fit the various organizations' requirements.

Challenges and Considerations: This paper proposes several factors that undermine the adoption of digital HRM: employees' resistance to change, shortcomings in digital competencies among the HR personnel, disclosure of employee data, and lack of a supportive infrastructure. Solving these issues entails focusing on training and development needs, generating and implementing ideas, and ensuring adequate and robust protection against cyber threats.

Strategic Role of HR: Last but not least, the transformation in the context of the increasing digital age brings more focus on the strategic aspect of the HRM function across organizations. HR practitioners are now business-savvy and focus on using IT to achieve organizational objectives. This never-ending process can only be carried out in alignment with new technologies and with active participation by stakeholders within the organization.

The conclusion derived from the study underlines the possibilities of the changes that the HRM techniques in a digital environment may bring in terms of an organization's ability to manage change, engage staff and make better decisions. By adopting these technologies, organizations can appropriately prepare themselves for competition in the new world order of digitization while facilitating innovative work environments.

Limitations & Directions for Future Work

Scope and Depth of Literature Review: Although they thoroughly searched, the review featured a lot more on the academic databases and articles. It may have failed to capture the informants' views on the grey literature, such as reports, documents, records, industry reports, publications, and practitioner accounts, which could offer other perspectives regarding digital-era HRM strategies.

Temporal Aspect: Due to the increasing rate of advancement in digital technologies, newer studies and advancements may have occurred after the literature search was done. This temporal limitation could impact the generalizability of the findings of the current state and the identified trends and innovations in the field of digital HRM.

Methodological Constraints: The review was based on secondary data sources. Such an approach can lead to the types of "bugs" such as publication bias or methodological flaws of the studies involved in the review.

Future Directions for Research

Longitudinal Studies: Future research may involve Longitudinal research that looks at how these digital era HRM techniques are being adopted and their effectiveness over time. This would help analyze the effectiveness of these strategies and obtain information about their application on a larger scale in the long term.

Cross-Cultural Studies: Cross-cultural and cross-organizational research can be helpful in averting cultural bias. Knowledge of the specificities of the functioning of digital HRM practices at the international and national levels in different industries can serve as a basis for developing universal and contextualized solutions.

Emerging Technologies: Due to the high growth rate of the development of new technologies (for example, artificial intelligence or blockchain technologies), the application of which in the field of HRM still needs to be explored. They have the potential to create benefits, risks, and ethical concerns, and research could be directed towards assessing these aspects.

Impact on Employee Well-being: Thus, there is an increasing need to study digital HRM and its effects on employees' thriving, satisfaction, and work-life balance. Knowledge of how technology-enabled HR practices impact employees' experiences can help organizations create a healthy and positive culture for workers.

Integration with Organizational Strategy: Further research needs to be done on how digital HRM supports organizations' overall strategic goals of innovation, sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

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