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## تأثير الذكاء الاصطناعي على فهم سلوك الموظفين وإمكاناتهم في سابك

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# The Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Deployment on Understanding Employee Behavior and Potential

A CASE STUDY OF SABIC

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# إهداء

إلى من هم منبع الصدق والوفاء والمحبة  
إخوتي وأخواتي حفظهم الله جميعاً

...

إلى كل من علمني حرفاً وأسدى إلى نصيحاً  
أساتذتي وزملائي الكرام حفظهم الله

إلهم جميعاً أهدي ثمرة هذا الجهد المتواضع داعية الله أن يتقبله، وأن يجعله خالصاً لوجهه  
الكريم

الباحثين ،،

# سُرَّةُ شُكْرِ وَتَقْدِيرٍ

الحمد لله حمداً يليق بجلال وجهه وعظيم سلطانه، وأشكره على جزيل إنعامه وعظيم فضله وامتنانه،  
والصلاة والسلام على سيد الأنام، نبينا محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم القائل "من لا يشكر الناس لا يشكر الله"، أما  
بعد:

أستهل شكري وتقديري إلى الصرح الشامخ جامعة الجميع الذكية، ممثلة برئيس الجامعة ووكلائها الكرام،  
على ما تقدمه من خدمات جليلة لطلاب العلم وطالباته.

وأقدم بخالص شكري وتقديري لسعادة الدكتور/ وليد صديق، وسعادة الدكتورة/ فاطمة مصطفى،  
رعاهما الله، لقبولهما الإشراف على هذا البحث، حيث كانت لتوجيهاتهما السديدة الدور الأكبر في خروج هذا العمل  
بهذه الصورة، فأسأل الله العلي القدير أن يجزيهما عني خير الجزاء في الدنيا والآخرة.

كما أتقدم بالشكر الجزيل إلى الأساتذة محكمي أداة البحث على ما بذلوه من جهد، وما قدموه من توجيهات  
كان لها دوراً كبيراً في إتمام هذا العمل.

والشكر موصول إلى زملائي أفراد عينة البحث الذين شاركوا في إثراء هذا العمل.

وختاماً أشكر كل من أسدى لي نصيحة أو توجيه أو فكرة، لأجل الارتقاء بمستوى هذا العمل.

والحمد لله رب العالمين

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## **Abstract:**

Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), a leading player in the global petrochemical industry, is actively pursuing sustainable growth and economic diversification, aligning its goals with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. This research delves into the impact of deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) at SABIC to gain a deeper understanding of employee behavior and potential.

The study employs a mixed-method approach, utilizing both surveys and in-depth interviews. Through these methods, the research investigates:

- Employee attitudes towards AI integration: This includes exploring employee perceptions of AI's role in the workplace, potential anxieties, and acceptance levels.
- Shifting work dynamics: The research will examine how AI implementation affects employee workflows, collaboration patterns, and overall work environment.
- Effectiveness of AI-driven insights: The study will assess how AI-generated insights are being used to improve employee management practices, such as performance evaluation, skill development, and career planning.

By analyzing these aspects, the research aims to illuminate the potential of AI to optimize SABIC's workforce efficiency. Additionally, the study will explore how AI can contribute to

improved organizational decision-making, ultimately driving sustainable growth for SABIC in line with Vision 2030.

## Chapter (1)

## **Introduction:**

Established in 1976, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) has grown into a global behemoth, shaping the landscape of the petrochemical industry. Its journey reflects the remarkable transformation of Saudi Arabia's economy, with SABIC playing a pivotal role not only in national development but also in propelling global industrial progress (SABIC, n.d.). However, in today's dynamic business environment, staying ahead requires continuous innovation and adaptation. This is precisely why SABIC has embraced the transformative potential of Vision 2030, a strategic blueprint for Saudi Arabia's future (figure 1.1).

Vision 2030 outlines a comprehensive roadmap for diversifying the Saudi Arabian economy, fostering sustainable growth, and creating a knowledge-based society. SABIC, deeply committed to this national vision, recognizes the crucial role its workforce plays in achieving these ambitious goals. Optimizing workforce efficiency and nurturing a culture of excellence are paramount to propelling the organization forward. Figure (1.2)

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents a groundbreaking opportunity for organizations like SABIC to revolutionize employee management practices. AI encompasses a range of sophisticated technologies like machine learning, natural language processing, and predictive analytics. By harnessing these powerful tools, organizations can unlock a new era of growth, efficiency, and competitive advantage. Figure (1.3)

This research delves into the specific impact of AI deployment on understanding employee behavior and potential at SABIC. It aims to shed light on the implications of AI for organizational effectiveness and strategic decision-making. By examining how AI is transforming employee management practices, the research seeks to contribute valuable insights that can guide SABIC in its journey towards achieving sustainable growth and realizing the ambitious goals outlined in Vision 2030.

This revised introduction provides a more comprehensive background on SABIC, the significance of Vision 2030, and the growing importance of AI in employee management. It also clearly outlines the research objectives and its potential contribution to SABIC's success.

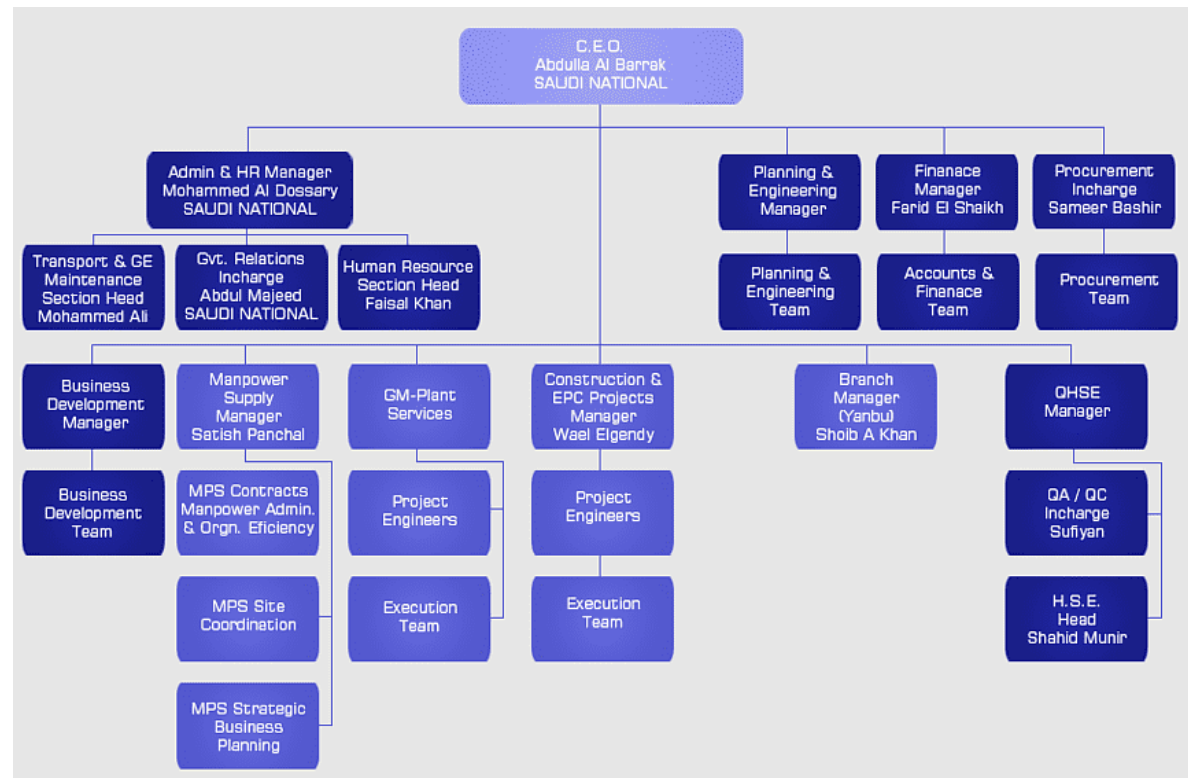


Figure (1.1) SABIC Charter.

The Vision was cascaded into **strategic objectives** to enable effective implementation through Vision Realization Programs.

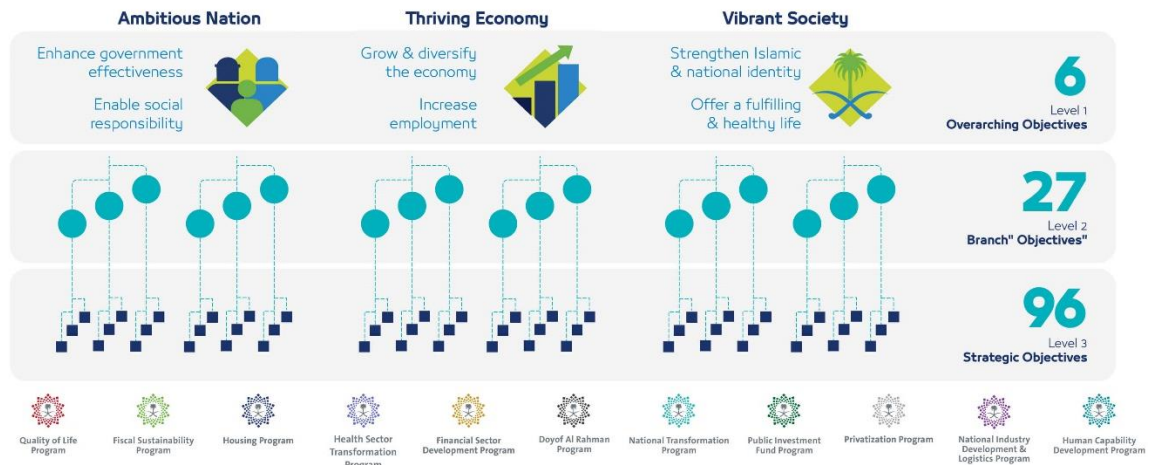


Figure (1.2) 2030 Strategic Objectives.

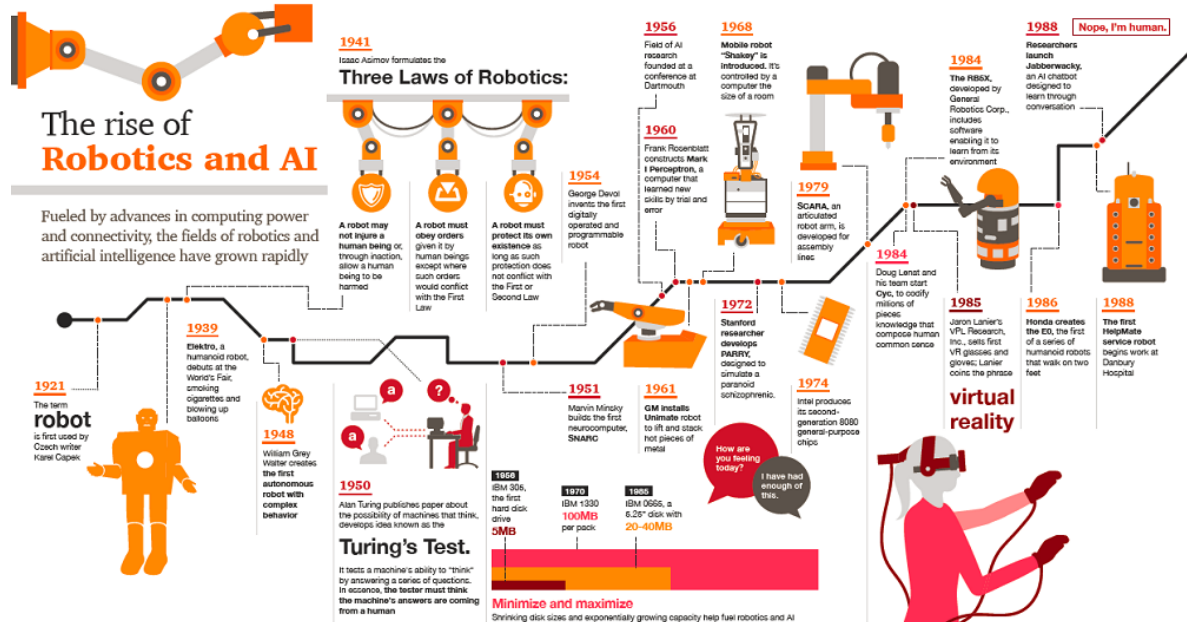


Figure (1.3) AI Revolution

## **Research Problem:**

SABIC currently employs conventional methods for understanding employee behavior and potential. However, these conventional approaches fall short in enhancing employee effectiveness, well-being, and overall organizational performance. They often result in inefficiencies, as considerable time is spent deciphering employee potential and weaknesses to formulate tailored development plans for pivotal roles within the company. One of the critical challenges associated with the adoption of AI in employee management practices at SABIC is cybersecurity.

As AI systems rely heavily on data, including sensitive employee information, the risk of data breaches and cyberattacks becomes a significant concern. Unauthorized access to employee data could not only compromise individual privacy but also undermine organizational trust and reputation. Moreover, the potential for AI algorithms to perpetuate biases or make incorrect decisions based on flawed data poses additional cybersecurity risks. In light of SABIC's commitment to achieving its goals in alignment with Vision 2030, there is a critical need to streamline and modernize employee management practices while addressing cybersecurity challenges.

By transitioning from conventional methods to innovative approaches, SABIC can optimize its workforce, foster employee engagement, and accelerate progress towards its strategic objectives. This transition holds significant promise for saving time and energy, crucial resources in the pursuit of organizational excellence.

Existing research in the field often overlooks the cybersecurity implications of AI deployment in employee management practices. While AI has demonstrated its transformative potential in various domains, including cybersecurity, its application within the context of large organizations like SABIC remains relatively unexplored from a cybersecurity perspective.

This study aims to address this gap by investigating the effectiveness of AI deployment in enhancing organizational decision-making and workforce optimization while considering cybersecurity challenges.

## **Research questions**

- How do employees at SABIC perceive the integration of AI in the workplace?
- To what extent are employees comfortable with AI being used to analyze their work performance data?
- How does AI deployment change the way employees collaborate within teams at SABIC?
- Does AI automate specific tasks, freeing up employee time for more strategic or creative work?
- How does AI impact communication patterns between employees and managers at SABIC?

- How can AI-driven insights be effectively used to improve performance evaluations at SABIC?
- Does leveraging AI lead to more personalized training and development opportunities for employees at SABIC?

## **Objectives:**

The objectives of this research are:

- Studies suggest initial concerns about job displacement are common, but employees become more accepting with clear communication and training ..
- Transparency about AI usage and its role in augmenting, not replacing, human work can be crucial for employee buy-in.
- AI can automate repetitive tasks, freeing up employees for higher-level activities like problem-solving and client interaction.
- Communication patterns might shift as AI handles routine tasks and frees up managers for more in-depth discussions with employees. However, effective communication strategies remain essential.
- The value of AI insights depends on the quality of data used and the interpretability of the results.
- AI can identify performance trends undetectable by human managers, allowing for targeted interventions and training.
- Personalized learning paths based on AI-driven insights can enhance employee development and career progression.

- AI can analyze employee skills and potential, enabling better workforce planning and talent allocation.
- AI-powered insights can highlight resource gaps or underutilized skillsets within departments, informing resource allocation decisions.
- By optimizing workforce efficiency and employee performance, AI can contribute to sustainable growth through reduced waste and improved resource utilization.

## **Methodology:**

Mixed-methods approach: This approach combines quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.

Employee survey: A well-designed survey distributed to a representative sample of SABIC employees can gather data on their attitudes towards AI, perceived changes in work dynamics, and their experience with AI-driven insights in performance management.

## **Search limits:**

Objectivity limits

The current research examined the impact of AI in improving job employee's performance in SABIC. Moreover, objective data allows for stronger conclusions and more effective recommendations regarding AI implementation at SABIC.

Spatial limits

The research was applied to employees working in the SABIC company in the city of Al-Jubail.

Time limits

Research during the academic year 1445/2024.

## **Search Terms:**

### Artificial intelligence (AI)

refers to the ability of machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.

This includes tasks such as:

- Learning and problem-solving
- Reasoning and planning:
- Understanding and responding to language
- Natural language processing Computer vision

### Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity refers to the practice of protecting all things connected to the internet from attacks. This includes:

Computer systems and servers: These are the backbone of many organizations and need protection from unauthorized access, data breaches, and malware.

Mobile devices: Our smartphones and tablets hold a lot of personal information, so cybersecurity measures help secure them.

Electronic systems: Industrial control systems and other electronic systems are increasingly connected to the internet, making them vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Networks: Networks are the foundation for connecting all these devices, and cybersecurity protects them from intruders and disruptions.

Data: Data is the most valuable asset in today's world, and cybersecurity safeguards it from theft, corruption, and unauthorized access.

In simpler terms, it's like building a fortress around your digital world to keep out bad actors who might try to steal information, cause damage, or disrupt operations.

### Organization Charter

An organizational charter, often just called a charter, is a foundational document that outlines the core aspects of an organization. It essentially acts as a blueprint for its purpose, direction, and operations.

Think of an organizational charter as a constitution for the organization. It provides a clear and shared understanding of what the organization stands for, how it operates, and where it's headed. This fosters alignment among members and stakeholders, promoting effective decision-making and goal achievement.

## Chapter (2)

## **Theoretical background of the research:**

This research explores the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) deployment on understanding employee behavior and potential at SABIC. To delve into this topic, we must examine relevant theories and concepts from various disciplines, including:

### **1. Human Resource Management (HRM) and Employee Behavior**

**Job Characteristics Model (JCM):** Hackman & Oldham (1976) proposed this model, which suggests that employee behavior and satisfaction are influenced by five core job characteristics: skill variety, task significance, autonomy, task identity, and feedback. This framework can be used to assess how AI might alter these characteristics and potentially impact behavior.

**Organizational Behavior (OB) Theories:** Theories like Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977) and Goal Setting Theory (Locke & Latham, 1990) can inform how AI might influence employee learning, motivation, and goal setting through feedback mechanisms and personalized training.

### **2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning**

**Machine Learning (ML) Algorithms:** Understanding different ML algorithms (e.g., supervised, unsupervised) used in AI systems is crucial. Tambe et al. (2019) provide a comprehensive overview of these algorithms and their applications. This knowledge helps analyze how AI extracts insights from employee data.

AI and Big Data: Big data analytics is often integrated with AI. Brynjolfsson & McAfee (2014) discuss the potential and challenges of big data in organizational decision-making, which can be linked to employee management practices.

### 3. AI and the Future of Work

AI and Automation: Frey & Osborne (2017) sparked discussions on potential job displacement due to AI automation. While their work is debated, it raises concerns about AI's impact on employee behavior and job security. Autor et al. (2022) offer a counterpoint, suggesting AI might create new job roles. Understanding these contrasting viewpoints is vital.

### 4. Ethical Considerations of AI in the Workplace

Algorithmic Bias: Bostrom & Yudkowsky (2014) explore potential biases inherent in AI algorithms, which could skew how AI "sees" employee behavior and potential. This necessitates careful consideration of ethical implications in AI development and employee data usage.

This research offers a unique perspective by examining the impact of AI deployment on employee behavior and potential within the specific context of SABIC, a leading global petrochemical company.

## Chapter (3)

## **Surveys:**

In order to achieve the research objectives & answer as much as possible the research problem we have utilized the followings to achieved this:

**A- Field Survey.**

**B- Online Survey.**

**C- Face to face interviews.**

### **Field Survey:**

A field survey was conducted among SABIC employees in the administrative building to gather quantitative data on their perceptions and experiences related to AI deployment and its impact on understanding employee behavior and potential. The survey questionnaire was designed to capture a range of variables, including attitudes towards AI, perceived changes in work dynamics, and the effectiveness of AI-driven insights in enhancing employee management practices. A total of 91 employees participated in the survey, providing valuable insights into their views on AI deployment at SABIC.

## Online Survey:

An online survey was created to boost research participations and gather extensive feedback. We've already received responses from 65 participants via [Monkey Survey Website](#). The below tables show brief summary of the online survey result.

| growth at SABIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | teams at SABIC                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. How much do you know about AI (Artificial Intelligence )</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Does not know anything about it</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I have some background about it</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I know it very well</p>    | <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it has some positive impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it helps a lot</p> |
| <p>2. How does AI deployment change the way employees collaborate within teams at SABIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it has some positive impact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it helps a lot</p> | <p>3. Please write more about the usage of AI at work</p> <div></div>                                                                                |
| <p>3. Please write more about the usage of</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <div></div>                                                                                                                                          |

Done

Powered by  SurveyMonkey

See how easy it is to [create surveys and forms](#).

| Online Survey Results |                                                                                    |              |               |              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Question #            | Question Write up                                                                  | First Option | Second Option | Third Option |
| 1                     | How Much do you know About AI                                                      | 10 (15.3%)   | 51 (78.5%)    | 4 (6.2%)     |
| 2                     | How Does AI Deployment Change the way employees collaborate within SABIC Employees | 2 (3.1%)     | 10 (15.4%)    | 53 (81.5)    |

Table (3.1) Online Survey Results

## Interviews:

In-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders at SABIC, including employees, managers, and HR professionals, to gain deeper insights into their experiences and perspectives regarding AI deployment. The interviews were semi-structured, allowing for open-ended exploration of themes such as challenges faced, benefits realized, and recommendations for future improvements. A total of 8 interviews were conducted, each lasting approximately 7 minutes. The qualitative data obtained from the interviews complemented the quantitative findings from the survey, providing rich contextual understanding and enabling triangulation of data.

**Method of analysis:**

After collecting the needed data by the subject research tools, which after been processed utilizing Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

## Chapter (4)

## **Research findings:**

### Question One

-How do employees at SABIC perceive the integration of AI in the workplace?

#### Positive Perceptions:

**Increased Efficiency and Productivity:** Many employees see AI as a tool to automate repetitive tasks, freeing them up for more strategic work and potentially improving overall output.

**Enhanced Decision-Making:** AI can analyze vast amounts of data to identify patterns and trends that humans might miss, potentially leading to better-informed decisions.

**Improved Job Satisfaction:** By handling repetitive tasks, AI can allow employees to focus on more engaging and creative aspects of their jobs, potentially boosting morale and satisfaction.

**Reduced Errors:** AI can improve accuracy and consistency in tasks prone to human error, leading to higher quality work.

#### Negative Perceptions:

**Job insecurity:** A common concern is that AI will automate jobs, leading to layoffs and unemployment.

**Skill Gap:** Employees may worry that their current skills will become obsolete and they won't be able to adapt to working alongside AI.

Lack of Transparency: AI algorithms can be complex, and employees may feel uncomfortable with decisions made by "black boxes" they don't understand.

| Aspect                                  | Possible Perception | Explanation                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Efficiency and Productivity</b>      | Positive            | AI-powered automation can streamline tasks, reduce errors, and free up employee time for more strategic work.                                              |
| <b>Skill Development</b>                | Mixed               | Some may view AI as a threat, requiring new skillsets to work alongside AI. Others may see it as an opportunity to develop expertise in AI-related fields. |
| <b>Job Security</b>                     | Uncertain           | While some repetitive tasks may be automated, AI can also create new job opportunities. The net impact on jobs is difficult to predict.                    |
| <b>Transparency and Decision-Making</b> | Concern             | A lack of transparency in AI-driven decision-making processes could lead to employee distrust.                                                             |
| <b>Workload and Stress</b>              | Varied              | AI can reduce workload, but pressure to adapt to new technologies could create stress.                                                                     |

Table (4.1) AI Impact

## Question Two

- To what extent are employees comfortable with AI being used to analyze their work performance data?

The comfort level of employees with AI analyzing their work performance data varies significantly. Here's a breakdown of some key factors influencing their perception:

### Factors Increasing Comfort:

**Transparency and Fairness:** If employees understand how AI is used to evaluate performance and trust the algorithms are unbiased, they're more likely to be comfortable. Clear explanations about data collection, analysis, and potential outcomes are crucial.

**Focus on Development:** When AI is used to identify skill gaps and provide personalized recommendations for improvement, it can be seen as a positive tool for growth.

**Reduced Bias:** AI can potentially mitigate human biases that can creep into traditional performance reviews. This can lead to a fairer and more objective evaluation process.

**Real-time Feedback:** AI can offer continuous performance insights, allowing employees to adjust their approach and improve throughout the work cycle.

### Factors Decreasing Comfort:

**Privacy Concerns:** Employees may be apprehensive about their data being monitored and analyzed without proper consent or control.

**Feeling Micromanaged:** Constant monitoring by AI could create a sense of being constantly scrutinized, leading to decreased autonomy and increased stress.

Algorithmic Bias: If AI systems are not rigorously tested and monitored, they may perpetuate existing biases in the data, leading to unfair evaluations.

Job Insecurity: Concerns about AI replacing human judgment in performance reviews can lead to anxieties about job security.

Overall, comfort with AI-powered performance analysis is a balancing act. Transparency, fairness, and a focus on development can increase employee acceptance. However, addressing privacy concerns, reducing micromanagement, and mitigating algorithmic bias are essential for fostering trust in the system.

### Question Three

- How does AI deployment change the way employees collaborate within teams at SABIC?

AI deployment can significantly impact how employees collaborate within teams at the workplace. Here's a breakdown of some potential changes:

Positive Impacts:

Enhanced Communication and Collaboration: AI-powered translation tools can break down language barriers in geographically dispersed teams, facilitating smoother communication and collaboration.

Improved Project Management: AI can analyze team productivity, identify bottlenecks, and suggest workflow optimizations, leading to more efficient project management.

Smarter Brainstorming: AI can analyze vast amounts of data to identify patterns and connections that humans might miss, sparking new ideas and fostering creative collaboration.

Automated Tasks: AI can handle administrative tasks like scheduling meetings, summarizing documents, and taking notes, freeing up team members to focus on higher-level collaboration.

Personalized Support: AI can provide team members with real-time data and insights relevant to their roles, promoting individual contributions and collaboration towards shared goals.

#### Challenges and Considerations

Overdependence on AI: Overreliance on AI for communication or decision-making can hinder the development of critical thinking and interpersonal skills within teams.

Social Disconnect: Excessive dependence on AI-mediated communication can create a sense of social disconnect and hinder the informal interactions that foster team spirit and trust.

Algorithmic Bias: Biases in AI algorithms could lead to unfair allocation of tasks or unequal recognition within teams.

Data Privacy Concerns: Employees may be hesitant to share openly within teams if they have concerns about their data being analyzed by AI.

Overall, AI deployment presents both opportunities and challenges for team collaboration. Organizations can maximize the positive impacts by:

**Fostering a Human-in-the-Loop Approach:** Humans should maintain control over decision-making, with AI acting as a powerful tool to assist collaboration, not replace it.

**Promoting Open Communication:** Clear communication about how AI is used within teams can alleviate concerns and build trust.

**Prioritizing Human Connection:** Creating opportunities for informal in-person or virtual interaction remains crucial for building strong team bonds.

**Investing in Training:** Equipping employees with the skills to work effectively alongside AI can mitigate anxieties and maximize benefits.

By implementing AI strategically and focusing on its role in enhancing human collaboration, organizations can foster a more effective and rewarding teamwork experience.

#### Question Four

- Does AI automate specific tasks, freeing up employee time for more strategic or creative work?

AI does automate specific tasks, freeing up employee time for more strategic or creative work. This is one of the key benefits of AI integration in the workplace. Here's a breakdown of how it works:

Identifying Repetitive Tasks: AI excels at recognizing patterns and following rules. It can efficiently automate repetitive tasks that are well-defined and data-driven. Examples include data entry, scheduling appointments, generating reports, or processing customer service inquiries.

Increased Efficiency and Accuracy: By automating these tasks, AI frees up valuable employee time that was previously spent on mundane activities. This leads to increased overall efficiency and potentially fewer errors due to human oversight.

Focus on Higher-Value Work: With repetitive tasks handled by AI, employees can dedicate their time and energy to more strategic or creative endeavors. This could include tasks like:

**Strategic planning and problem-solving**

**Developing new products or services**

**Building relationships with clients or colleagues**

**Engaging in creative brainstorming sessions**

**Providing personalized customer service**

However, it's important to consider some nuances:

Not All Tasks Can Be Automated: AI is still under development, and many tasks require human judgment, creativity, or social skills that AI currently struggles with.

Reskilling and Upskilling May Be Needed: As tasks are automated, employees may need to develop new skills to work effectively alongside AI or transition to different roles within the organization.

Overall, AI offers a powerful tool to automate specific tasks, freeing up valuable human potential for more strategic and creative work. However, successful implementation requires careful consideration of task suitability, employee training, and a focus on leveraging the unique strengths of both humans and AI.

#### Question Five

- How does AI impact communication patterns between employees and managers at SABIC?

AI's impact on communication between employees and managers is a double-edged sword. Here's a breakdown of the potential benefits and drawbacks:

Benefits:

Increased Efficiency and Speed: AI-powered tools like chatbots can answer frequent questions or handle basic requests, freeing up managers' time for more in-depth conversations with employees. This allows for more focused discussions and quicker resolution of issues.

Personalized Communication: AI can analyze employee data to understand preferred communication styles (e.g., email, video chat) and tailor messages accordingly. This can

lead to more effective communication and a stronger connection between employees and managers.

**Data-Driven Decision Making:** AI can analyze communication patterns and sentiment within the organization. This can help identify areas where communication is breaking down or morale is low, allowing managers to take proactive steps to address them.

**Real-time Feedback and Support:** AI can analyze data like performance metrics or feedback surveys to generate reports and insights. This allows managers to provide more targeted and timely feedback to their teams.

**Challenges:**

**Overdependence on AI:** Overreliance on AI for communication can create a cold and impersonal environment. The lack of face-to-face interaction can hinder the development of strong relationships between employees and managers.

**Loss of Empathy:** AI communication might lack the nuance and empathy of human interaction. This can lead to misunderstandings, frustration, or feelings of detachment for employees.

**Algorithmic Bias:** Biases in AI algorithms could lead to unfair treatment or unequal opportunities for communication and feedback. For example, an AI might favor certain communication styles or topics, disadvantaging employees who naturally communicate differently.

Data Privacy Concerns: Employees may hesitate to communicate openly with managers if they are worried about their data being constantly analyzed by AI. This can lead to a lack of transparency and trust.

Overall, AI offers the potential to enhance employee-manager communication, but careful implementation is key. Here are some ways organizations can ensure a positive impact:

Focus on Human Interaction: AI should be a tool to complement, not replace, human interaction. Regular one-on-one meetings and informal interactions remain essential for fostering trust and rapport.

Maintain Transparency: Organizations should clearly communicate how AI is used in communication. This can help alleviate concerns and build trust with employees.

Prioritize Empathy and Human Connection: Managers should leverage AI insights to tailor communication but remember to convey empathy and understanding in their interactions.

Ensure Data Privacy: Robust data security measures and clear communication policies should be implemented to address employee privacy concerns about AI use.

By using AI strategically and prioritizing the human element, organizations can foster a more effective and engaging communication environment for both employees and managers.

### Question Six

- How can AI-driven insights be effectively used to improve performance evaluations at SABIC?

AI-driven insights is a powerful tool to improve performance evaluations in the workplace.

Here's how to leverage them effectively:

Identifying Strengths and Weaknesses:

Data-driven Analysis: AI can analyze vast amounts of data (performance metrics, customer feedback, project data) to identify patterns and trends that might be missed by human evaluators.

Objective Feedback: AI can provide more objective feedback by removing unconscious bias that can creep into traditional evaluations.

Personalized Insights: AI can analyze individual performance data to pinpoint specific strengths and weaknesses, allowing for more targeted feedback and development plans.

Enhancing Feedback and Development:

Real-time Feedback: AI can provide continuous performance insights throughout the year, allowing for timely course correction and ongoing development.

Personalized Development Plans: AI can generate personalized recommendations for skill development based on individual performance data and organizational goals.

Focus on Growth: AI can identify skill gaps and suggest relevant training resources, fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Improving Efficiency and Fairness:

Reduced Time Commitment: AI can automate repetitive tasks like data collection and analysis, freeing up managers' time for more meaningful conversations with employees.

Standardized Evaluations: AI can ensure consistency in evaluation criteria across the organization, leading to fairer assessments.

Reduced Bias: AI can help mitigate unconscious bias in human evaluations by focusing on objective data and performance metrics.

Here's how to ensure successful implementation:

Transparency and Trust: Clearly communicate how AI is used in performance evaluations. This builds trust and encourages employee buy-in.

Focus on Development: Frame AI insights as a tool for growth, not punishment.

Human-in-the-Loop Approach: AI should complement human judgment, not replace it. Managers should use AI insights to guide conversations and personalize feedback.

Data Quality and Fairness: Ensure the data used by AI is accurate and unbiased to avoid perpetuating existing inequalities.

By using AI responsibly and focusing on employee development, organizations can leverage AI-driven insights to create a more effective, fair, and future-proof performance evaluation process.

#### Question Seven

- Does leveraging AI lead to more personalized training and development opportunities for employees at SABIC?

**Individualized Learning Paths:** AI can analyze employee data like performance metrics, skills assessments, and past training records. This allows for the creation of personalized learning paths that address specific skill gaps and development needs.

**Real-time Feedback and Recommendations:** AI can track progress during training and offer feedback based on performance. It can also recommend additional learning resources based on individual needs and progress.

**Adaptive Learning:** AI-powered systems can adjust the difficulty and pace of training based on the employee's performance. This ensures they are neither overwhelmed nor underchallenged, maximizing learning effectiveness.

**Microlearning Opportunities:** AI can deliver bite-sized learning modules that fit into busy schedules and address specific topics. This allows for continuous, on-the-go learning and skill development.

However, some challenges exist:

**Data Privacy Concerns:** Employees may be hesitant to share data if they're unsure how it's used for training personalization.

Algorithmic Bias: Biases in AI algorithms could lead to recommending training that reinforces existing inequalities.

Limited Scope: AI may not be suitable for all types of training, particularly those requiring soft skills development or human interaction.

Overall, AI offers a powerful tool for personalized training. Here's how organizations can maximize its benefits:

Transparency and Control: Ensure clear communication about how AI is used in training and provide employees with control over their data.

Human Expertise: AI should complement, not replace, human trainers. Trainers can personalize further, provide mentorship, and address soft skills development.

Data Quality and Fairness: Use high-quality, unbiased data to train AI and regularly audit algorithms to mitigate bias.

Focus on Employee Input: Get employee feedback on training content and delivery methods to ensure AI recommendations are relevant and helpful.

By implementing AI thoughtfully and addressing potential challenges, organizations can create personalized training programs that empower employees to reach their full potential and contribute more effectively to the workplace.

## Chapter (5)

## **Summary:**

This research proposal delves into the potential impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) deployment on understanding employee behavior and potential at SABIC, a leading global player in the petrochemical industry. Aligning with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 for economic diversification and sustainable growth, SABIC recognizes the crucial role its workforce plays in achieving these goals. This research investigates how AI can optimize workforce efficiency, foster employee engagement, and accelerate progress towards these strategic objectives.

The proposal outlines a mixed-method approach, combining surveys and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders like employees, managers, and HR professionals. This approach aims to capture a range of quantitative and qualitative data on employee attitudes towards AI, perceived changes in work dynamics, effectiveness of AI-driven insights, and potential challenges. The research will consider various aspects of AI implementation, including:

**Impact on Employee Perceptions:** Exploring how employees perceive AI integration, including concerns about job displacement, skill gaps, and lack of transparency in decision-making processes.

**Comfort with AI-powered Performance Analysis:** Investigating factors influencing employee comfort with AI analyzing their work performance data, such as transparency, focus on development, and potential for bias.

Shifting Collaboration Patterns: Examining how AI might influence team collaboration, including potential benefits like enhanced communication, improved project management, and smarter brainstorming, alongside challenges like overdependence on AI, social disconnect, and algorithmic bias.

Automating Tasks and Freeing Up Time: Analyzing how AI can automate specific tasks like data entry, scheduling, and report generation, allowing employees to focus on more strategic or creative work. However, the research will also acknowledge that not all tasks can be automated and reskilling might be necessary.

Communication Between Employees and Managers: Investigating the potential impact of AI on communication patterns, including benefits like increased efficiency and personalized communication, alongside challenges like overdependence on AI, loss of empathy, and data privacy concerns.

Enhancing Performance Evaluations: Exploring how AI-driven insights can improve performance evaluations by identifying strengths and weaknesses, providing objective feedback, and facilitating personalized development plans. The research will emphasize the importance of a "human-in-the-loop" approach and ensuring data quality and fairness.

Personalized Training and Development: Assessing how AI can be leveraged to create personalized learning paths by analyzing employee data and recommending specific training resources to address skill gaps and foster continuous learning. However, data privacy concerns and limitations of AI in soft skill development will be considered.

## **Recommendations:**

By implementing AI strategically and focusing on its role in complementing human capabilities, SABIC can unlock its full potential for workforce optimization. Here are some additional recommendations to consider:

**Data Security and Privacy:** Develop a robust data security plan outlining measures to protect employee data throughout the AI development and implementation process.

Additionally, ensure clear communication and transparency about how employee data will be used and anonymized to address privacy concerns.

**Ethical Considerations:** Establish clear ethical guidelines for AI development and deployment to mitigate potential biases and ensure fairness in decision-making processes related to employee performance and career advancement.

**Change Management Strategy:** Develop a comprehensive change management strategy to effectively communicate the benefits of AI implementation to employees, address potential anxieties, and provide training to equip them with the skills to work alongside AI effectively.

**Human-Centered Approach:** Maintain a human-centered approach throughout the AI integration process. Employees should not feel replaced by AI but empowered by it to perform at their best. Focus on fostering a culture of human-AI collaboration where both human expertise and AI capabilities are utilized to their full potential.

Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish a system for continuous monitoring and evaluation of AI implementation to assess its effectiveness, identify areas for improvement, and ensure it aligns with SABIC's strategic goals and ethical principles.

By following these recommendations, SABIC can harness the power of AI to optimize its workforce management practices while fostering a positive and productive work environment for its employees. This research will provide valuable insights and recommendations to guide SABIC on its journey towards achieving sustainable growth and success in the era of intelligent automation.

## Appendixes

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